竜殺しの過ごす日々

1

Ryugoroshi no Sugosuhibi

illustration
碧風羽
Tona Akayuki
赤雪トナ

竜を殺して強くなった…

普通の少年が、異世界でヒーローになる！

ヒーロー文庫新創刊!!!

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lang="en">

Ryuugoroshi no Sugosuhibi - WN Chapter 01-27

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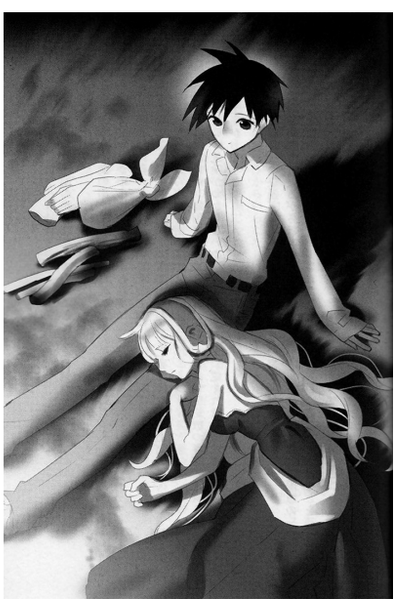
Novel Illustrations

Kosuke who has fallen into another world crashed into a Dragon. Horun found a boy who was laying on the ground.

A woman came out. Her black hair was messy and uncombed, her eyes which were usually full of intellect were rather bland right now, and at a glance it seems her clothes were just thrown on.



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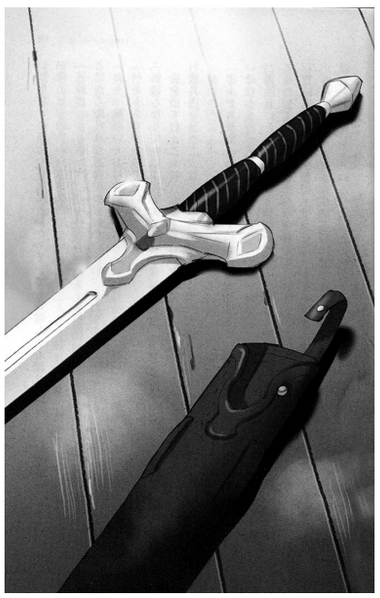

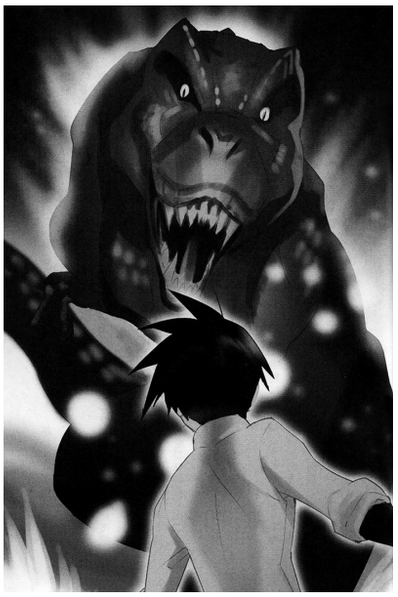

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Chapter 01

Hajiko: So here is the whole first chapter of Ryuugoroshi It really took me awhile with all those exams which I had the last two weeks.

So that was from me. Enjoy.

Xant: Sorry for the delay, there was just so much text…really overwhelming!

Ryuugoroshi no Sugosu Hibi V1
Chapter 1 – The Human Missile

In this world there is something we call God. This ‘God’ makes humans disappear without warning.
In the ancient times humans feared this phenomenon. They thought that they were being abducted by Tengus or Ghosts into the world of gods.

The real reason why those people suddenly disappeared was that they suddenly left, had been kidnapped, or died in an accident, and so on.

However, there were still some people who were kidnapped into another world.

Our protagonist, Watase Kosuke, is one of those people.

That day after he went home from school, he went to the convenience store to buy the [Weekly Jump] and it happened.

“I’m so stupid, I even forgot to bring my wallet to school.”

Kosuke always rode his bicycle to school and brought his bento so he didn’t have the habit of buying bus passes or lunch. There also wasn’t much of a chance that he would need his wallet for something in school.

[The Protagonist has awoken his ability and confronted the powerful enemies in front of him, while the Shura field behind him expanded and threatened to overwhelm him. The protagonist was thinking of a way get out of this predicament.]

As it reached the climax, the chapter ended and it left Watase really curious about it.

“I can´t wait, I have to buy it and read the climax.”

Kosuke, wanting to read the newest Jump, hummed a song which gave him the air of an ordinary High School Student. In less than a minute, his life was going to change.

Seeing the corner in front of him, he sped up since the convenience store was just around it.

“What the?!”

But before he could make his first step he was surrounded by darkness.

In that moment, he wasn’t worrying about his own safety but rather not being able to buy and read his manga.

Being spirited away suddenly happened to Kosuke.

Without the interference of a god or ghost, he just accidentally stumbled into a dimensional crack.

Due to the sudden nature of this event, he couldn’t even react.

After entering the crack he drifted for a short while, and then was immediately sucked into another crack.

This is the nature of being ‘spirited away’ which happened to Kosuke.

So he continued to fall. Kosuke couldn’t understand what was even happening.

In less than a minute his scenery changed so drastically while he fell that he even forgot to feel panic.

Kosuke couldn’t help but stare at the sky while listening to the violent wind and experiencing the cold air on his skin – If he looked down in this situation he might cry out loud, being terrified of the huge beast below.

But fear is fear, and he opened his eyes. To his surprise, in front of him was a dreadful Black Dragon.
(TN: 也有可能害怕歸害怕*,*可是他會用既驚訝又好奇的眼神*)*

That huge creature was a European-style dragon.

It face had a pair of glowing red eyes full of intellect and was covered by black scales. Its mouth had huge, sharp fangs. Adorning its head were two magnificent horns, and on its back were a pair of silver wings which gave an impression of strength. Its appearance gave off a terrifying atmosphere.

Kosuke fell from the sky and crashed into the dragon, losing consciousness.

Falling from that height at that speed, the impact so strong that Kosuke was terribly wounded and half dead.

But there were three reasons why his life was not extinguished, and ended up shining even brighter.

Kosuke had a dream. He dreamt that he woke up in an overseas hospital and on his side was a beautiful West-European Girl.

In the dream they couldn't talk to each other due to the language barrier, but they understood each other by using hand signs.
It was a strange yet peaceful dream.

That day had happened to be the dining day of the black dragon which occurred every half-year.

While waiting for the sacrifice to come.

The Black Dragon was deciding between swallowing the sacrifice with one bite or eating her slowly after torturing her with fear.

Having the humans offer sacrifices for his consumption was an old tradition.

Since then, the Black Dragon has only seen the humans as food to fill his stomach.

The Black Dragon has no misunderstanding as to why the humans do that and never interfere, it's because he is that powerful a being.

Before the gaze of the strong, there is no need to think about a weak group of vulnerable beings.

Since that is the law of nature.

He even thought that if a God appeared before him he would eat him.

Over hundreds of years there were countless heroes who tried to kill, him but

they were defeated instead.

Before Kosuke appeared, the Black Dragon was a invincible being.

However, the Black Dragon finally received an attack unlike anything he had felt before, an impact so strong that it would destroy his skull, which lead to the death of the Black Dragon.

While the Black Dragon was on the edge of death, it felt its strength leaving its body.

This was the evidence that he lost.

While still in disbelief, the consciousness of the Dragon gradually sank into darkness.

Horun Kosuberu Sutorachi who was in the Cage for offerings heard that sound, a dragon roar which had never been heard before.
(TN: Having a problem with her name if anyone knows (Jap.: ホルン・コスベル・ストラーチ*/ Chn.:* 赫倫·柯佩斯·斯托拉齊*))*

She has already heard the Dragon roar many times before, but the previous roars were all full of confidence in his power.

But the one from today sounded different from the usual, it sounded like moaning.

The cage which was moving to the Dragon's nest stopped, since the people carrying the cage were also confused.

'But even if the dragon is moaning, so what?'

She asked herself, disheartened.

Even if the question was answered, she wouldn't survive to see the next sunrise.

In order to let her country survive, Horun will be eaten by the Dragon. Her life was already forsaken.

Then the cage started moving again and Horun stopped thinking.

As her eyes lost all their light, she accepted her fate.

The cage kept moving forward towards the altar.

20 minutes later, the cage reached its destination.

By Horun's calculation, it seems she's finally arrived at the altar.

After hearing the sound of a lock being opened, the cage door swung wide.

After being locked in a small cage for so long, she was finally able to breathe fresh air with a feeling of liberation.
She wasn't feeling happy.

Horun was guided out of the cage by the Knights.

Although her movements were slow, the Knights weren't acting impatient but rather they had an expression which showed pity watching Horun walk to the altar.

Horun was wearing a luxurious dress which suited her gray hair and white skin.

This was a present which the country gave her in order to let her be as beautiful as possible when she saw her parents for the last time.

But the dress also looked like a shroud, fitting since she will die in it.

Just like the former captured and sacrificed girls.

After being lead by the Knights to the Altar, she was told to stand there and not to move.

They haven't thought about the possibility of Horun running away since she is of noble birth and is well aware of her fate.

The Knights returned the way they came with the cage in tow.

If there were other people at the altar, the Dragon wouldn't be pleased. It was possible that a city would be wiped out.

Horun closed her eyes and waited for the dragon.

While her cloth and hair swayed in the wind her body didn't move a bit giving her the appearance of a doll. 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour. Time passed as she stood there waiting. After nearly 2 hours, Horun finally opened her eyes and looked with her emerald-like eyes to the altar.

Her expression showed not only fear, but also a questioning look as to why the dragon still hasn't appeared.

She had enough of waiting around to be killed and just wanted everything to be over as soon as possible.

Even if leaving the altar would anger the dragon, she couldn't escape her fate of being eaten. Horun walked down from the Altar to the forest path.

The forest path she walked on was formed by crushed trees from the dragon walking here, so following them should lead her to the Dragon's nest.

"Such a peaceful place…"

One could only hear the rustling sound of leaves swaying in the wind and the insects .

There wasn't even one animal nor any monsters, perhaps they didn´t want to live next to the Black Dragon.

While Horun walked in the forest she could only hear the ambient forest noise and her own footsteps.

After walking for 30 minutes Horun stopped.

She saw a huge black lump slowly become visible on the other side of the forrest.

"Is that it..?" wondered Horun, because she couldn't feel a bit of pressure.

When she was younger she saw the dragon once. She had been scared and trembling even though there was a great distance between them.

But now, she couldn't feel anything nor any pressure.

As if she was just looking at a statue.

After steeling herself she walked closer to the huge lump. Seeing it up close, she knew that her life was saved.

"… dead."

The Dragon was obviously not breathing anymore.

The most important internal organ was the horn on the head.

All the power of a dragon is produced by the horn and then circulates through the body, and without the horn they can't survive for long.

But the horn of the Black Dragon was broken, showing that the dragon is dead.

“How?”

The fact that the Black Dragon is dead was great news for Horun and her country, but the question of how the Dragon died was a more pressing matter to Horun.

She went close to the dragon’s head to search for the reason, but since Horun was ignorant about fighting she wouldn’t be able to tell what happened anyways.

Regardless of that she continued to search for clues on the body of the dragon.

The massive body that was larger than 10 meters seemed completely unharmed. Even though the body was covered with dirt, just wiping it with your hand would cause it to reflect the sunlight.

“Ah!”

Then Horun found a teenager on the ground while she was slowly walking.

This was the boy whom was transferred into another world, crashing into the dragon at a high speed from the sky.

While walking to Kosuke to check if he was alright, she noticed that the invulnerable scales of the dragon had been cracked.

This was the death blow for the Black Dragon. The Dragon wasn’t afraid of injury or the like but it could have survived if it were hit in another location, only feeling a bit of pain instead of death.

The problem was the location of the broken scale, a weakness for the dragon which it was unaware of itself.

The kind of weakness that could be exploited with a simple impact, you just needed to keep the beast still for long enough.

Up until now it was protected by the impregnable scales which protected the weakness so it emerged unscathed in every battle, but this time its luck ran out.

Such a chance was even lower than hitting the jackpot in the lottery.

Against this, an ordinary person who accidentally drifted into this world would

be finished as soon as he arrived.

Kosuke had received some major injuries from his encounter; he had crushed his shoulder from the impact, his right hand had multiple fractures and lacerations, his rib cage was fractured, he had several fatal injuries, and to top it off he also had some serious systemic contusions.

Although he was seriously injured he successfully killed the Dragon, which was a great achievement.

“Was the dragon killed by him?”

Despite not being clear about what happened, Horun was sure that the person which was lying on the ground used some unknown way to kill the dragon, which revived her sense of being alive.

After the first tear fell, she couldn’t stop crying anymore.

“Waaaaah, ou, *sniffle* ah,ah-!”

There was no meaning in crying, but from the sound of how she was crying one could hear that she was letting out all her pent up emotions.

After the crying echoed for a while one could hear the insects again, as if they understood that the Black Dragon is dead and there is no longer any need to be afraid.

After she stopped crying and wiped away her tears, Horun walked to the person who killed the Dragon to thank him.

As she approached him, she realized how grievous his wounds were. She rushed over to his side.

Even though she was clueless about fighting, she had a wealth of medical knowledge. After examining the boy, Horun’s expression became pale.

If she had cried for even a little while longer, Kosuke would have succumbed to his wounds. Horun quickly healed the boy, starting with his right arm, moving to his chest, and then doing the rest of his body.

It not like everyone in this world has the same knowledge of medical technique and magic.

Horun happened to be a genius about those topics. At the age of 19 she was already one of the best in the country.

But that's also the reason why she hated the fact that she had been chosen as the sacrifice for the dragon。

After 30 minutes had passed, Horun was sure that the wounds were healed. She could finally relax.

As soon as she relaxed, she was struck with sleepiness and fell asleep while leaning on the dragon's corpse.

Using Healing magic consumes physical energy, but she was also just exhausted from being unable to sleep due to anxiety and fear.

So it was understandable that she fell for the temptation of sleep.

The boy woke up only 2 hours after Horun had fallen asleep.

"Huh… why does it feel so hard?"

Not noticing that the hard ground was merely soil, Kosuke was looking at his unfamiliar surroundings. The anemia he was experiencing due to the massive amount of blood he lost was clouding his mind.

He wondered where he was.

His arm didn't feel quite right. Upon glancing at it, he saw a large red mark which was made up of his dried blood.

"What the hell!!"

Kosuke touched his arm in panic to make sure that there wasn't a problem.

The crash jostled his memory, he had no recollection of what happened.

Kosuke's home was nowhere near a forest, but he was clearly in a forest right now.

Next to him there was a beautiful woman sleeping, and a giant beast which he never seen before.

Kosuke slowly started to remember what he had done after waking up in the morning, and the events that had lead to him being here.

“After I got up in the morning I went to school. Then after school I went to the convenience store and then…then…it suddenly got dark? I fell out of the darkness into the sky? And hit something? No, there’s no way, right?”

Kosuke couldn’t help but not believe his memories.

Even though he continued to ponder over the events, he couldn’t make heads or tails of anything. His surprise was understandable since he suddenly fell from the sky. There really wasn’t any sense to what had happened.

“It is just like a plot in a Novel or Manga…let’s ask that person first. From her looks she probably can’t speak Japanese, but I hope I can at least communicate with her in English…I’ve never spoken to such a beautiful person before…”

Kosuke patted Horun´s shoulder nervously, and seeing that she didn’t wake up he grabbed her shoulder and started shaking her.

“Wake up, wake up.”

Horun who was still sleepy slowly opened her eyes.

Before she saw Kosuke after opening her eyes, her mind suddenly had the thought “What if my salvation was only a dream?”.

But she realized that she was not in the cage nor in the belly of the dragon.

She noticed that she had accidentally fallen asleep outside, and that the teenager that she had healed earlier was in front of her. There was no doubt she had been spared her fate.

Horun wanted to ask Kosuke if he was still hurting anywhere, and Kosuke wanted to ask Horun where he was. At the same time they said:

“dfyerhs?”

“Where am I?”

Neither party understood the other, and thinking they just got the words wrong tried again:

“jsthsmu?”

“Where am I?”

(TN: The first time Kosuke asked in Japanese and the second time he asked in

English.)

Kosuke confirmed that she didn't speak English and he wasn't able to communicate with her, while Horun was simply confused about the unfamiliar language.

Kosuke then tried to communicate with her using hand signals which confused her even more, then he understood that it was wasted effort.

To any onlookers, they would see a teenager performing an eccentric dance in front of a beautiful girl while both parties had a serious expression on. It looked rather ridiculous.

Kosuke began to feel anxious and distressed since he didn't know where he was or how he came to be here.

All of his worried were clearly written on his face.

Even though he knew that it was useless, he still continued trying to talk to her.

Seeing the restless red eyes of Kosuke, Horun touched his head trying to calm him down.

Horun did that because she once saw how a mother calmed down her crying child with this method.

While she did that she smiled to tell him that he has nothing to fear and that she is not his enemy, while she continued stroking his head gently till Kosuke calmed down.

Kosuke eventually grasped her hand to tell her to stop.

"Thank you."

While knowing that she didn't understand him but he still was thankful.

Then Horun smiled and put her hand at her chest:

"Horun."

After she introduced herself she repeated her name again and pointed at Kosuke.

Kosuke didn't understand what she was doing, and after seeing Kosuke's

reaction Horun repeated her introduction.

After the second time, Kosuke finally understood that it was an introduction.

“Kosuke.”

“Kosuke?”

After Horun said his name while pointing at him, Kosuke nodded.

Then she repeated his name again while he also nodded again.

After confirming each others names Kosuke felt relieved after seeing the smiling Horun.

At least they now knew each others name, proving that communication was not completely impossible. Knowing this calmed down Kosuke’s restless heart.

After successfully communicating with Kosuke, Horun smiled while thinking to make sure that Kosuke wouldn’t start feeling uneasy.

In the end, returning was impossible for her now since about 80% of the population would think that she ran away halfway.

Even if her relatives accepted her return, she would still receive the backlash from the city and possibly the country for running home.

Her family would also receive a punishment.

Even if she announced the death of the dragon, she feared that no one would believe it since there were so many heroes which were slain by the dragon. Everyone believed that the dragon was an invincible being.

Even if she brought Kosuke back, there would be very few who would believe he defeated it since he looked weak.

And even if they did believe it, she couldn’t rule out the possibility that the nobility would misuse him and leave him out to dry afterwards.

Since he was the legendary Dragon Slayer’s reincarnation.

He might also be arrested to be used as a bargaining chip for diplomacy.

Horun didn’t want her savior ending up like that.

[He doesn’t looks like a talkative person…should I go with him to Alice first?

That person's place is a fair distance from the city and is suitable for hiding in, and Alice is not a person who would betray me. The problem is that place is some distance away from here…will that boy obediently follow me there?]

After accepting it as a good idea, Horun stood up followed by Kosuke.

Taking into account that she would be intruding on Alice out of the blue, Horun decided to bring a souvenir.

The souvenir was a dragon scale.

Not only was it an expensive material, it was also evidence that the dragon was dead.

Horun chose the scale which had been broken by Kosuke.

Horun's strength was on par with a typical adult male, but she still had difficulty stripping the scale off. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't peel the scale from the flesh.

"Ah… I can't strip it off, that's troublesome. Kosuke, can you help?"

Seeing Horun's actions, Kosuke thought that the scales are necessary and rolled up his sleeves in order to help.

After watching Horun try peeling one off with all her strength and failing, he decided to use both his hands. He didn't expect it to tear off so easily.

Perhaps Horun was just really weak?

In the end, Kosuke judged that one hand was enough to peel them off and did so one by one.

After seeing Kosuke's performance, Horun was astonished.

[I don't believe it.]

Horun never thought that Kosuke was that strong, but her surprise soon turned into understanding since he was able to kill the dragon. His strength couldn't be judged merely from his appearance.

Even though both parties were slightly misunderstanding the situation, there was nobody here that could correct them.

After Kosuke pulled out about 50 scales Horun told him to stop and he gave all

the scales to Horun, who bound them together in her scarf and carried them on her shoulder.

Then she walked in the direction of Alice’s house while pulling Kosuke.

ILLUSTRATION | MAIN PAGE |

Chapter 02

After walking for a long while and not being sure of the destination, Kosuke started to feel uneasy. Horun noticed his restlessness and showed her concern, Kosuke managed to calm down with the knowledge that he wasn't alone.

Kosuke wanted to protect his honor and didn't want to be seen as useless.

But his uneasiness had been seen through already, so hiding it at this point was a useless endeavor.

[If I had a younger brother it would probably feel like this.]

While seeing Kosuke who was trying hard, Horun laughed when that thought crossed her mind.

After walking for a while, they felt hungry.

Horun went and searched for fruits in the forest, and to show Kosuke that they were safe to eat she would take a bite first.

Since there were no animals to eat anything in the forest, a lot of the food was rotting away.

When they were thirsty they went and looked for a stream, and Kosuke couldn't help but be impressed about the purity of the water.

To Horun it was natural, so she couldn't understand him.

When they were tired they took a break and if they met trouble on the way Horun dealt with it.

Just like that, 7 hours passed since they departed and they discovered a village at the foot of a mountain.

Kosuke finally eased up a little and went in the direction of the village to ask for shelter for the night, but he was stopped by Horun.

Kosuke looked back and saw a troubled expression on Horun for the first time.

Horun pulled on Kosuke's sleeve, indicating they should pass around the village. He obediently followed her.

One could vaguely figure out that she didn't want to go to the village. The two of them continued to walk.

After walking a long distance the mountain behind them looked really small, and the sun had set.

Tonight the moon was shining brightly in the night sky.

If they had been moving on the plains instead of in a forest they would have been able to see quite well, that's how bright the moonlight was.

Horun was concerned about the lack of light in the forest so she used illumination magic, which spawned small light particles that floated around them and lit their path.

After seeing Kosuke's reaction to magic Horun couldn't help but laugh quietly, since she didn't think that he would be so happy to see magic.

Seeing Kosuke trying to poke the light particles, Horun relaxed.

Even though she had an obligation to protect him, seeing his childlike excitement gave her the feeling of wanting to protecting him of her own will.

After walking a while they found a small spring and Horun decided to camp there.

They both collected dry branches.

Horun placed down the branches, and Kosuke followed suit.

'Just like a child imitating their parent', Horun couldn't help but to laugh quietly again.

Using the leaves that were on the dry branches as kindling to light a fire, they added the branches on top to create a bonfire.

This was the first time that Horun had to sleep outside overnight so she wasn't sure what to do, but she knew that lighting a fire was appropriate so she did it.

She wasn't aware that wild animals avoid the fire or that the temperature drops at night in the forest, she merely lit the fire to feel at ease.

Dinner was the fruits which were picked from the forest.

Although it didn't taste good, it filled their stomach.

After finishing their meal, Horun stood up. She wanted to clean off the sweat and dirt that got on her body, but since she couldn't have a proper bath she wanted to at least wipe herself off.

Horun saw Kosuke's glance, wondering what she wanted to do.

Horun tried to tell him that she wanted to wipe her body by moving her hand like she was using a sponge.

Even if the other person was her savior, she would be embarrassed if her naked body were seen, so she indicated with her hand that Kosuke should stay here.

"tjkkl?"

Not being able to communicate and seeing Horun's expression, Kosuke thought that he did something bad so he revealed a worried expression.

"Hyjk….jn!"

Knowing that she had been misunderstood, Horun went over to Kosuke. Since she couldn't explain properly, she could only pat his head or smile to ease his concern.

At the same time she felt that not being able to communicate with each other is really inconvenient.

[Bringing him to the spring and doing the motion of cleaning myself should probably get him to understand what I want to do?]

So Horun took his hand and went to the spring.

She soaked her handkerchief and wiped her arm.

Then in front of Kosuke she imitated the movement of undressing, showing that she want to wipe herself.

Seeing Kosuke tilt his head, Horun let out a defeated sigh, not knowing what to do after understanding that her plan failed.

But then suddenly Kosuke's face got bright red and he turned around and walked away. Seeing that, Horun was relieved.

After wiping off the sweat and dirt, Horun went back to the campfire feeling refreshed. Kosuke made a unclear gesture nervously while blushing.

Kosuke was trying to apologize, but this time it was Horun's turn of not being able to understand him, so it took her a while to figure out what he meant.

The time just passed by quietly with neither party having anything to do.

If they could understand each other then they would have chatted the whole time.

Since they had a mountain of questions to ask each other.

If it wasn't for the fact that they couldn't understand each other, they would have talked through the night.

Since that wasn't possible they could only remain silent.

Horun listened to the crackle of the campfire and the sound of insects, while her eyelids slowly got heavier and heavier.

She had already been lacking on sleep before this, and combining that with her use of anti-fatigue magic she was spent both physically and mentally.

If not for that magic, Horun wouldn't have been able to walk that distance with her stamina.

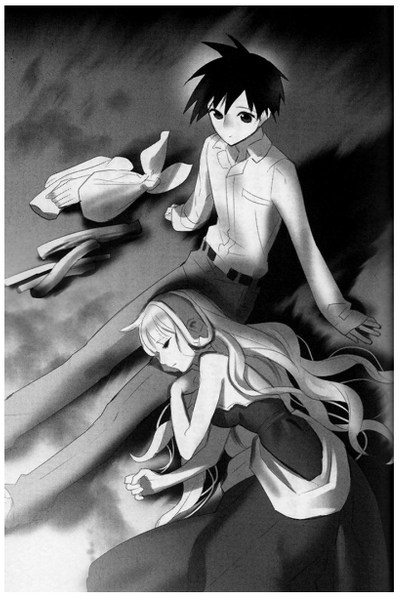
Kosuke, on the other hand, thought she was a very energetic girl, seeing her walk the whole way without complaining.

Seeing Horun sleep while sitting, Kosuke thought she would have a rough time getting proper rest. He moved her head silently to his lap.
(TN: Lap pillow reverse^^)

"She should be able to sleep more comfortably now. I thought she was pretty tough, but it seems like she was just pushing herself. I owe her a lot for her kindness. This lap pillow I'm giving her doesn't make us even, but I think it's the thought that counts."

Kosuke muttered silently, fearing that he would wake her up.

Kosuke lied down flat on the ground and looked at the sky though the gaps between the branches. Although Kosuke had never seen such a beautiful night sky, he unfortunately wasn't in the mood to appreciate this splendid view.



“But really, where am I? While I can’t exclude the possibility that this is another world, there couldn’t be such a coincidence, right? I can only hope that this is an unknown place on Earth and I somehow ended up here. Although I wouldn’t enjoy that either, it’s better than being transported into another world.”
(TN: Sorry Kosuke but you are in another world.)

Kosuke let out a long sigh.

“It seems this girl has a problem, otherwise we probably would have gone into the village for lodging…where would someone who can’t enter a village go instead? I’m afraid it’ll be somewhere dangerous. But right now I can only rely on this girl in front of me. She doesn’t seem like a person with bad intentions, and travelling with her isn’t unpleasant either.”

Then Kosuke let out another sigh.

“And it seems my body got a bit strange since coming here. There is no way I have this much strength or stamina. Walking continuously for several hours is possible, but how come I don’t even feel the slightest bit tired? Can anyone explain why my body is like this?”

Kosuke felt depressed.

But naturally no one responded. He didn’t expect an answer anyway.

After Kosuke released his pent up stress he fell asleep and his breathing levelled out.

While asleep, Kosuke’s closed eye shed a tear.

The intense anxiety and confusion had him unconsciously shedding a tear.

Horun woke up about 2 hours after the fire went out. The temperature had dropped considerably.

Immediately after Horun woke up she noticed that she was on Kosuke's lap.

"Did he…cry?"

Her original intention was to thank Kosuke, but looking at his face she discovered tears.

"Do you also have some problems?" muttered Horun while stroking his head.

The two were completely defenseless right now, any monster that approached would have a meal out of them. But none came at them.

It was not like they feared the fire, the reason was a object that they carried.

Those monsters didn't have the courage to go near a place which had the smell of a dragon.

Only humans are unable distinguish dangerous creatures through smell, but fortunately this area didn't have bandits.

So the souvenir also became a talisman which protected those two.

On the fourth day after descending from the mountain, they had reached the house of the witch Alice by noon.

Although Kosuke looked quite dirty, he showed no sign of fatigue.

On the other hand, Horun was in an extremely exhausted state.

In order to avoid other people, they didn't use the road but walked through the forest.

Plus the shoes that she wore were not suited for walking but were rather fancy shoes.

Even though Kosuke proposed that he would carry her with a gesture, since they weren't able to communicate with each other Horun never nodded.

In actuality, Horun never accepted it because it would be too embarrassing for her and she didn't want to show the younger boy her worthless side.

Horun knocked on the door, but nobody responded.

She didn’t give up and continued to knock several times. One could suddenly hear someone moving in the house.

Shortly after that, loud footsteps came from behind the door.

“That’s annoying! Who is it?”

From the open door, a woman of about 25 years old came out.

Her black hair was messy and uncombed, her eyes which were usually full of intellect were rather bland right now, and at a glance it seems her clothes were just thrown on.

Her rough attitude made her appear unapproachable, but she had beautiful facial features. If she worked a bit on her appearance and attitude, she would transform into a stunner.

After hearing the footsteps, Horun had immediately stepped back.

“We haven’t seen each other for 15 days, Alice.”

Alice looked stunned at the smiling Horun, but her attitude instantly disappeared and her face relaxed.

“… Horun? How come…why are you here?”

“Where else would I go besides here?”

“You escaped?”

“My life was saved.”

Listening to Horun, Alice had a confused expression.

“Your life was saved? Well whatever, it’s great that you’re safe and sound! Now that I take a closer look at you, you seem to be in bad shape. Come in!”

“Thank you. I knew Alice wouldn’t drive me away, Kosuke.”

Horun turned around at the confused Kosuke who wasn’t able to understand anything which was said just now, and he walked forward.

After seeing Horun waving, Alice just noticed Kosuke’s existence.

“Who is that?”

“My savior.”

Hearing this from Horun, Alice woke up immediately. She couldn't help but stare at him.

Being looked at like he was being observed, Kosuke felt uncomfortable.

He could feel a fearsome aura from her.

"You, come in as well. We'll talk inside."

"Kosuke doesn't understand our language."

"Is that so? Then how did you two decide to come here together?"

"With hand gestures."

"To be able to travel here using only that kind of method, not bad."

"It was a bit challenging, but he's not a bad child."

"Child, huh? Well at best he is about fourteen years old, so I guess to you who's only nineteen he would be like a child."

Kosuke looked like an average seventeen year old teen in the eyes of a Japanese person, but to Horun he looked much younger.

It's this way for most of the Japanese, they look younger than they actually are to most Europeans and Americans.

However, standing in the front of the door was not an option so they accepted the invitation and went inside the house.

"The house got quite dirty…"

That was the first sentence Horun said after stepping into the house.

What she said was the truth. However the house wasn't covered in trash, rather there were things chaotically scattered everywhere.

Kosuke was shocked as he walked in since he thought a burglar had hit the place recently.

When Horun had visited 15 days ago the house was still clean. It wasn't like Alice didn't know how to clean.

She had built up a lot of frustration and anger due to not being able to protect Horun and this mess was the aftermath of her venting it all. She had just left it

laying around.

“…it’s ok.”

“Wait a moment. I will clean it up.”

“No, that’s unnecessary. I’ll have it all cleaned up upon Borudosu’s return.”

“We will probably be staying here for a while, so let me help.”

“Is…that so? Then I’ll accept.”

The three of them avoided the things scattered around and went to the living room.

After Alice had taken out the tea and snacks, Horun and Kosuke were relieved to eat warm food. They didn’t have any cookware while travelling.

Warmth spread inside of them, ‘This is what civilized people should eat.’ thought Kosuke.

“Can you tell me what happened?”

“Before explaining everything, can you use interpreter magic? If I remember right you can use it, correct?”

“Ah, yes we should definitely do that.”

Alice stood up and walked over to Kosuke.

Stretching out her index finger to Kosuke’s forehead, she began to use magic.

Horun held Kosuke’s hand when he appeared to be feeling unsure and smiled to calm him down.

Kosuke uneasiness was swept away by Horun’s smile and he sat there obediently. A warm feeling suddenly flowed inside of his head.

“So that should do it. Can you understand what I’m saying?”

“I understand…I understand what you are saying!”

Horun smiled at Kosuke who was jumping around and saying “I can understand you!”.

Alice who couldn’t stand it hit him on his head.

“Why did you do that?”

“Because of your jumping the dust is flying around now. What will you do if the dust gets in the tea?”

“I’m sorry.”

Kosuke was frightened by Alice’s sharp eyes and immediately apologized.

“Just this extent is enough to scare you…are you really the Dragonslayer?”

“The Black Dragon is definitely dead and Kosuke was next to it. Also, not only was the Dragon injured but Kosuke as well. The best evidence is that I and the country are still safe. On top of that, here are some scales.”

Horun put the scales on the table.

“Those are the scales of that monster?”

“Yes.”

“Can I touch it?”

“Feel free. Originally I wanted to present them to you.”

Alice picked out one of the scales.

It was a black scale about 10 cm long, 6cm wide, and 3cm thick.

After checking that the color and sharpness matched the scales of the dragon in her memories, she tapped on it to check the hardness and then she used fire which came from her fingertip to try and burn it.

Seeing that the scale didn’t react in any way, Alice threw it onto the table.

“It seems like it really is a scale from that terrible monster. If it wasn’t dead, you wouldn’t have so many of these scales. Your name was Kosuke, right? Can you tell me how you killed the dragon?”

“I don’t know how to explain it since I don’t know what happened. So that black thing which was lying next to me was a dragon?”

Kosuke who was ignorant about the situation could only answer like that.

Upon hearing that Horun and Alice looked at each other.

The Black Dragon is a famous existence for the residents of this country.

Even if one hadn’t seen it personally, one would have heard about its appearance.

That was the one and only Black scaled Dragon in the world, how is it possible that someone doesn’t know about it?

“It seems like we came to a conclusion prematurely. We should start from scratch since we can communicate properly now. You said your name was Kosuke, right?”

Kosuke nodded.

“My name is Eliciel, my friends call me Alice. You can call me by whichever name you want.”

This was the first time Alice let someone call her by her nickname after their first meeting.
She didn’t know why she allowed it this time either.

“Then let me call you Miss Alice.”

Alice nodded.

“My name is Horun. Horun Kosuberu Sutorachi. Finally I can introduce myself formally.”

“I’m Watase Kosuke. Watase is my surname and Kosuke is my name. Thank you for your help on our journey.”

“No, you don’t need to thank me. Rather I should be thanking you. But anyways, if your surname is in front of your name could you possibly be from the Niexinge continent? There are some countries on that continent where the people have their surname in front of their name just like you.”
(TN: will change the name after I found what the name is in the japanese version.)

“My native country is a place called Japan.”

After hearing the name of the continent, Kosuke was sure that he came to another world.

He already had an inkling of doubt that he was still on Earth, but hearing this confirmed his worries and he became frustrated.

Horun and Alice had never heard of a country named Japan before. “What kind of country is that? Can you tell me about it, perhaps I will remember something.”

Although Kosuke had already came to a conclusion, perhaps there was someone like him in the past who came to this world so he told them about Japan.

…But even after Kosuke told them about Japan, neither could think about any country which suited that description.

“Vertically shaped island that experiences four seasons, next to it is the mainland, it boasts high security, and it has a high standing in the world. If we are talking about an island country, my first thought was the Lielie Island, but that country is not known by that name.”
“Could Japan be a name that only the inhabitants call the island?”

“Even if it was like that, there isn’t another country that fits the conditions. Maybe…”

Alice suddenly came up with an idea. To test her hypothesis she asked Kosuke a question.

“Sai Fuxi Ke, Kaer Huode, Aisen Biya and Henie Xinge. Do you remember something?”

“No.”

“A Leilu, Pula Le, Tie Lisidun. How about that?”

Horun couldn’t help but to be astonished.

The 3 names which Alice had just spoken were the higher Gods of this world.

Even a child should have heard of those names in their bedtime stories.

It’s impossible for someone to be unaware of those names. From Kosuke’s answer, she became sure of something.

“It seems like Kosuke is a ‘World-Traveler’”

Feeling unfamiliar with this word, Horun tilted her head while Kosuke could roughly understand what it meant.

Alice remembered a book she had read in the past, and she explained it to

Kosuke.

“A ‘World-Traveler’ refers to a person that came from another world. The legends say that there have been two of them in the past. They had knowledge and skills unknown to us which brought either prosper or chaos. So with this in mind, it’s natural that we didn’t understand Kosuke before since he was using a language which isn’t in our world. That also explains why he didn’t know the names of the continents or the Gods since they are words from our world.”

“Those two people that you mentioned, did they return to their original world?”

“It seems that they spent the rest of their lives here in this world.”

“…Is there no way back?”
(TN: Poor Kosuke)

“Unfortunately that’s not something I would know.”

Alice had an apologetic expression while looking at Kosuke.

“Since this world has magic, could there possibly be something like Return magic?”

“Even with the vast knowledge of magic that I have, I sadly have never heard of magic that can send a person into another world…”

“Alice is a famous magic user, known in the whole continent. If she doesn’t know about it, there is probably no magic which can send you back.”

“Uh…could there possibly be another way?”

Kosuke had a helpless expression on his face while he lowered his head to the two women.

“I’m sorry, there is nothing we can do.”

“I’m sorry.”

Kosuke gave up and became dejected.

If he had cried now, Alice would have understood. But Kosuke didn’t shed a tear.

It didn’t mean that Kosuke had a strong mentality.

He really was feeling depressed, but what the two women hadn't known was that he was actually okay with being stuck in this world and unable to return to Japan. He was able to hold his tears in due to this.

Alice actually did have an idea on how to return Kosuke, but the success rate of this method was so low that it would probably be a waste of time.

The method she thought of was asking God for help.

Unlike on Earth, God certainly existed in this world.

Alice's method was personally asking the Gods to send him back.

The problem was that she didn't know where to find the Gods, or if they could even send Kosuke back.

She thought about telling him this method, but she imagined him exhausting himself to find the Gods and failing to return…remaining silent seemed like the better option.

This also was out of goodwill.

"Sleeping outside should have exhausted you two, so take a break okay? After you've rested enough we'll take our time and think about things."

Continuing this now wouldn't get them very far, so Alice made that proposal and Horun nodded her head in agreement.

"Can you take Kosuke to the guest room? I'll heat up the bath water."

"Thank you."

After Horun thanked her, she led Kosuke to one of the rooms.

Kosuke laid down on the bed and began to think about what he should do, but laying on a comfortable bed for the first time in a while made him lose consciousness quickly.

…

Kosuke had a dream. The same one as before.

He found himself in the hospital again.

Talking with that familiar girl.

Unlike his previous dream, the girl spoke with a less painful expression this time.

She would sometimes smile happily…that kind of dream.

…

After finish her bath, Horun came to look for him. She silently opened the door and saw him sleeping peacefully, so she closed the door just as quietly as she had opened it.

Horun went straight to her room after that.

Not even a minute passed before she fell asleep due to the accumulated fatigue.

Even though Alice stayed quiet as to not disturb the sleep of Horun and Kosuke, she was immersed in joy knowing Horun was still alive.

| MAIN PAGE |

Part 1

Hi everyone Hajiko here

after some thought I will now split the next chapters in parts and relase them. Since it is faster then translating the whole chapter and uploding it then. Enjoy.

Xant: And so it begins. I caught up, finally.

Xant edit: Sorry for the double sentences. I clearly had a brain fart and forgot to remove em >_>

Chapter 2 – My Friend Is A Witch [Part 1]

After walking for a long while and not being sure of the destination, Kosuke started to feel uneasy. Horun noticed his restlessness and showed her concern, Kosuke managed to calm down with the knowledge that he wasn't alone.

Kosuke wanted to protect his honor and didn't want to be seen as useless.

But his uneasiness had been seen through already, so hiding it at this point was a useless endeavor.

[If I had a younger brother it would probably feel like this.]

While seeing Kosuke who was trying hard, Horun laughed when that thought crossed her mind.

After walking for a while, they felt hungry.

Horun went and searched for fruits in the forest, and to show Kosuke that they were safe to eat she would take a bite first.

Since there were no animals to eat anything in the forest, a lot of the food was rotting away.

When they were thirsty they went and looked for a stream, and Kosuke couldn't help but be impressed about the purity of the water.

To Horun it was natural, so she couldn't understand him.

When they were tired they took a break and if they met trouble on the way Horun dealt with it.

Just like that, 7 hours passed since they departed and they discovered a village at the foot of a mountain.

Kosuke finally eased up a little and went in the direction of the village to ask for shelter for the night, but he was stopped by Horun.

Kosuke looked back and saw a troubled expression on Horun for the first time.

Horun pulled on Kosuke's sleeve, indicating they should pass around the village. He obediently followed her.

One could vaguely figure out that she didn't want to go to the village. The two of them continued to walk.

After walking a long distance the mountain behind them looked really small, and the sun had set.

Tonight the moon was shining brightly in the night sky.

If they had been moving on the plains instead of in a forest they would have been able to see quite well, that's how bright the moonlight was.

Horun was concerned about the lack of light in the forest so she used illumination magic, which spawned small light particles that floated around them and lit their path.

After seeing Kosuke's reaction to magic Horun couldn't help but laugh quietly, since she didn't think that he would be so happy to see magic.

Seeing Kosuke trying to poke the light particles, Horun relaxed.

Even though she had an obligation to protect him, seeing his childlike excitement gave her the feeling of wanting to protecting him of her own will.

After walking a while they found a small spring and Horun decided to camp there.

They both collected dry branches.

Horun placed down the branches, and Kosuke followed suit.

'Just like a child imitating their parent', Horun couldn't help but to laugh

quietly again.

Using the leaves that were on the dry branches as kindling to light a fire, they added the branches on top to create a bonfire.

This was the first time that Horun had to sleep outside overnight so she wasn't sure what to do, but she knew that lighting a fire was appropriate so she did it.

She wasn't aware that wild animals avoid the fire or that the temperature drops at night in the forest, she merely lit the fire to feel at ease.

Dinner was the fruits which were picked from the forest.

Although it didn't taste good, it filled their stomach.

After finishing their meal, Horun stood up. She wanted to clean off the sweat and dirt that got on her body, but since she couldn't have a proper bath she wanted to at least wipe herself off.

Horun saw Kosuke's glance, wondering what she wanted to do.

Horun tried to tell him that she wanted to wipe her body by moving her hand like she was using a sponge.

Even if the other person was her savior, she would be embarrassed if her naked body were seen, so she indicated with her hand that Kosuke should stay here.

"tjkkl?"

Not being able to communicate and seeing Horun's expression, Kosuke thought that he did something bad so he revealed a worried expression.

"Hyjk….jn!"

Knowing that she had been misunderstood, Horun went over to Kosuke. Since she couldn't explain properly, she could only pat his head or smile to ease his concern.

At the same time she felt that not being able to communicate with each other is really inconvenient.

[Bringing him to the spring and doing the motion of cleaning myself should probably get him to understand what I want to do?]

So Horun took his hand and went to the spring.

She soaked her handkerchief and wiped her arm.

Then in front of Kosuke she imitated the movement of undressing, showing that she want to wipe herself.

Seeing Kosuke tilt his head, Horun let out a defeated sigh, not knowing what to do after understanding that her plan failed.

But then suddenly Kosuke's face got bright red and he turned around and walked away. Seeing that, Horun was relieved.

After wiping off the sweat and dirt, Horun went back to the campfire feeling refreshed. Kosuke made a unclear gesture nervously while blushing.

Kosuke was trying to apologize, but this time it was Horun's turn of not being able to understand him, so it took her a while to figure out what he meant.

The time just passed by quietly with neither party having anything to do.

If they could understand each other then they would have chatted the whole time.

Since they had a mountain of questions to ask each other.

If it wasn't for the fact that they couldn't understand each other, they would have talked through the night.

Since that wasn't possible they could only remain silent.

Horun listened to the crackle of the campfire and the sound of insects, while her eyelids slowly got heavier and heavier.

She had already been lacking on sleep before this, and combining that with her use of anti-fatigue magic she was spent both physically and mentally.

If not for that magic, Horun wouldn't have been able to walk that distance with her stamina.

Kosuke, on the other hand, thought she was a very energetic girl, seeing her walk the whole way without complaining.

Part 2

Hajiko: Here is the second part of chapter 2. After some checking I will change the name of the witch Erisu to Alice. Also I have to drop my translation speed since I´m in my exam time again -.-‘ but I will try to translate when I have time between the exams. So then enjoy Xant: Every person I work with seems to suddenly need to slow down. Am I a curse? ;-;

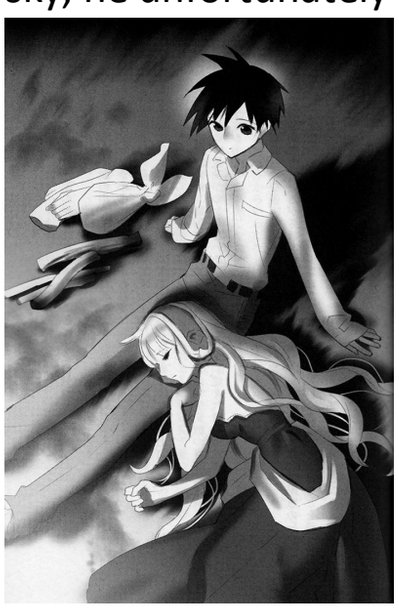
Chapter 2 – My Friend Is A Witch [Part 2]

Seeing Horun sleep while sitting, Kosuke thought she would have a rough time getting proper rest. He moved her head silently to his lap.
(TN: Lap pillow reverse^^)

“She should be able to sleep more comfortably now. I thought she was pretty tough, but it seems like she was just pushing herself. I owe her a lot for her kindness. This lap pillow I’m giving her doesn’t make us even, but I think it’s the thought that counts.”

Kosuke muttered silently, fearing that he would wake her up.

Kosuke lied down flat on the ground and looked at the sky though the gaps between the branches. Although Kosuke had never seen such a beautiful night sky, he unfortunately wasn’t in the mood to appreciate this splendid view.



“But really, where am I? While I can’t exclude the possibility that this is another

world, there couldn't be such a coincidence, right? I can only hope that this is an unknown place on Earth and I somehow ended up here. Although I wouldn't enjoy that either, it's better than being transported into another world."
(TN: Sorry Kosuke but you are in another world.)

Kosuke let out a long sigh.

"It seems this girl has a problem, otherwise we probably would have gone into the village for lodging…where would someone who can't enter a village go instead? I'm afraid it'll be somewhere dangerous. But right now I can only rely on this girl in front of me. She doesn't seem like a person with bad intentions, and travelling with her isn't unpleasant either."

Then Kosuke let out another sigh.

"And it seems my body got a bit strange since coming here. There is no way I have this much strength or stamina. Walking continuously for several hours is possible, but how come I don't even feel the slightest bit tired? Can anyone explain why my body is like this?"

Kosuke felt depressed.

But naturally no one responded. He didn't expect an answer anyway.

After Kosuke released his pent up stress he fell asleep and his breathing levelled out.

While asleep, Kosuke's closed eye shed a tear.

The intense anxiety and confusion had him unconsciously shedding a tear.

Horun woke up about 2 hours after the fire went out. The temperature had dropped considerably.

Immediately after Horun woke up she noticed that she was on Kosuke's lap.

"Did he…cry?"

Her original intention was to thank Kosuke, but looking at his face she discovered tears.

"Do you also have some problems?" muttered Horun while stroking his head.

The two were completely defenseless right now, any monster that approached

would have a meal out of them. But none came at them.

It was not like they feared the fire, the reason was a object that they carried.

Those monsters didn't have the courage to go near a place which had the smell of a dragon.

Only humans are unable distinguish dangerous creatures through smell, but fortunately this area didn't have bandits.

So the souvenir also became a talisman which protected those two.

On the fourth day after descending from the mountain, they had reached the house of the witch Alice by noon.

Although Kosuke looked quite dirty, he showed no sign of fatigue.

On the other hand, Horun was in an extremely exhausted state.

In order to avoid other people, they didn't use the road but walked through the forest.

Plus the shoes that she wore were not suited for walking but were rather fancy shoes.

Even though Kosuke proposed that he would carry her with a gesture, since they weren't able to communicate with each other Horun never nodded.

In actuality, Horun never accepted it because it would be too embarrassing for her and she didn't want to show the younger boy her worthless side.

Horun knocked on the door, but nobody responded.

She didn't give up and continued to knock several times. One could suddenly hear someone moving in the house.

Shortly after that, loud footsteps came from behind the door.

"That's annoying! Who is it?"

From the open door, a woman of about 25 years old came out.

Her black hair was messy and uncombed, her eyes which were usually full of intellect were rather bland right now, and at a glance it seems her clothes were just thrown on.

Her rough attitude made her appear unapproachable, but she had beautiful facial features. If she worked a bit on her appearance and attitude, she would transform into a stunner.

After hearing the footsteps, Horun had immediately stepped back.

“We haven’t seen each other for 15 days, Alice.”

Alice looked stunned at the smiling Horun, but her attitude instantly disappeared and her face relaxed.

“… Horun? How come…why are you here?”

“Where else would I go besides here?”

“You escaped?”

“My life was saved.”

Listening to Horun, Alice had a confused expression.

“Your life was saved? Well whatever, it’s great that you’re safe and sound! Now that I take a closer look at you, you seem to be in bad shape. Come in!”

“Thank you. I knew Alice wouldn’t drive me away, Kosuke.”

Horun turned around at the confused Kosuke who wasn’t able to understand anything which was said just now, and he walked forward.

After seeing Horun waving, Alice just noticed Kosuke’s existence.

“Who is that?”

“My savior.”

Hearing this from Horun, Alice woke up immediately. She couldn’t help but stare at him.

Being looked at like he was being observed, Kosuke felt uncomfortable.

He could feel a fearsome aura from her.

Part 3

Hajiko: Small surprise this will be the last part before I start revising for the exam so don't hope for more that fast.

Xant: Om nom nom licorice also it seems this chapter will have part 4 ~~and possibly 5~~

Chapter 2 – My Friend Is A Witch [Part 3]

"You, come in as well. We'll talk inside."

"Kosuke doesn't understand our language."

"Is that so? Then how did you two decide to come here together?"

"With hand gestures."

"To be able to travel here using only that kind of method, not bad."

"It was a bit challenging, but he's not a bad child."

"Child, huh? Well at best he is about fourteen years old, so I guess to you who's only nineteen he would be like a child."

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"…it's ok."

"Wait a moment. I will clean it up."

"No, that's unnecessary. I'll have it all cleaned up upon Borudosu's return."

"We will probably be staying here for a while, so let me help."

"Is…that so? Then I'll accept."

The three of them avoided the things scattered around and went to the living room.

After Alice had taken out the tea and snacks, Horun and Kosuke were relieved to eat warm food. They didn't have any cookware while travelling.

Warmth spread inside of them, 'This is what civilized people should eat.' thought Kosuke.

"Can you tell me what happened?"

"Before explaining everything, can you use interpreter magic? If I remember right you can use it, correct?"

"Ah, yes we should definitely do that."

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Stretching out her index finger to Kosuke's forehead, she began to use magic.

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Even if one hadn’t seen it personally, one would have heard about its appearance.

That was the one and only Black scaled Dragon in the world, how is it possible that someone doesn’t know about it?

“It seems like we came to a conclusion prematurely. We should start from scratch since we can communicate properly now. You said your name was Kosuke, right?”

Kosuke nodded.

Part 4

Hajiko: Here is the last part of chapter 2. Since I still have 3/4 of the exam to take till end March I will try to release one part per week when will depend on when I wrote the last exam of that week. Ah right since Chapter 3 is also quite long I will divide it into 6 parts and the chapter title will be: ~~The sudden birth of a superman.~~

Hajiko edit: Sorry small mistake with the next title it is: The Reason for the Sudden Birth of a Superman Enjoy

Xant: I have been swamped with work and pain. Stomach pains like no other brought on by cola balls. Big things on the horizon though. Big things…

Xant: We will only be using honorifics such as 'san', 'dono', 'sensei', etc where it is necessary or required for a scene to make sense. Personally, I don't think they belong in a translated novel since English uses totally different words to express the same idea. Granted, Japanese is more flexible regarding such addressing terms (ex: sensei vs shisou can't be expressed the same way in English) but even so I will do my best to make sure this novel is still endearing and a pleasurable read. Case in point is Miss Alice vs Alice-san, where Miss Alice sounds extremely natural.

Chapter 2 – My Friend Is A Witch [Part 4]

"My name is Eliciel, my friends call me Alice. You can call me by whichever name you want."

This was the first time Alice let someone call her by her nickname after their first meeting. She didn't know why she allowed it this time either.

"Then let me call you Miss Alice."

Alice nodded.

"My name is Horun. Horun Kosuberu Sutorachi. Finally I can introduce myself formally."

"I'm Watase Kosuke. Watase is my surname and Kosuke is my name. Thank you

for your help on our journey.”

“No, you don’t need to thank me. Rather I should be thanking you. But anyways, if your surname is in front of your name could you possibly be from the Niexinge continent? There are some countries on that continent where the people have their surname in front of their name just like you.” *(TN: will change the name after I found what the name is in the japanese version.)*

“My native country is a place called Japan.”

After hearing the name of the continent, Kosuke was sure that he came to another world.

He already had an inkling of doubt that he was still on Earth, but hearing this confirmed his worries and he became frustrated.

Horun and Alice had never heard of a country named Japan before.

“What kind of country is that? Can you tell me about it, perhaps I will remember something.”

Although Kosuke had already came to a conclusion, perhaps there was someone like him in the past who came to this world so he told them about Japan.

…But even after Kosuke told them about Japan, neither could think about any country which suited that description.

“Vertically shaped island that experiences four seasons, next to it is the mainland, it boasts high security, and it has a high standing in the world. If we are talking about an island country, my first thought was the Lielie Island, but that country is not known by that name.”

“Could Japan be a name that only the inhabitants call the island?”

“Even if it was like that, there isn’t another country that fits the conditions. Maybe…”

Alice suddenly came up with an idea.

To test her hypothesis she asked Kosuke a question.

“Sai Fuxi Ke, Kaer Huode, Aisen Biya and Henie Xinge. Do you remember

something?”

“No.”

“A Leilu, Pula Le, Tie Lisidun. How about that?”

Horun couldn’t help but to be astonished.

The 3 names which Alice had just spoken were the higher Gods of this world.

Even a child should have heard of those names in their bedtime stories.

It’s impossible for someone to be unaware of those names.

From Kosuke’s answer, she became sure of something.

“It seems like Kosuke is a ‘World-Traveler’”

Feeling unfamiliar with this word, Horun tilted her head while Kosuke could roughly understand what it meant.

Alice remembered a book she had read in the past, and she explained it to Kosuke.

“A ‘World-Traveler’ refers to a person that came from another world. The legends say that there have been two of them in the past. They had knowledge and skills unknown to us which brought either prosper or chaos. So with this in mind, it’s natural that we didn’t understand Kosuke before since he was using a language which isn’t in our world. That also explains why he didn’t know the names of the continents or the Gods since they are words from our world.”

“Those two people that you mentioned, did they return to their original world?”

“It seems that they spent the rest of their lives here in this world.”

“…Is there no way back?” *(TN: Poor Kosuke)*

“Unfortunately that’s not something I would know.”

Alice had an apologetic expression while looking at Kosuke.

“Since this world has magic, could there possibly be something like Return magic?”

“Even with the vast knowledge of magic that I have, I sadly have never heard of

magic that can send a person into another world…”

“Alice is a famous magic user, known in the whole continent. If she doesn’t know about it, there is probably no magic which can send you back.”

“Uh…could there possibly be another way?”

Kosuke had a helpless expression on his face while he lowered his head to the two women.

“I’m sorry, there is nothing we can do.”

“I’m sorry.” Kosuke gave up and became dejected.

If he had cried now, Alice would have understood.

But Kosuke didn’t shed a tear. It didn’t mean that Kosuke had a strong mentality.

He really was feeling depressed, but what the two women hadn’t known was that he was actually okay with being stuck in this world and unable to return to Japan.

He was able to hold his tears in due to this.

Alice actually did have an idea on how to return Kosuke, but the success rate of this method was so low that it would probably be a waste of time.

The method she thought of was asking God for help.

Unlike on Earth, God certainly existed in this world.

Alice’s method was personally asking the Gods to send him back.

The problem was that she didn’t know where to find the Gods, or if they could even send Kosuke back.

She thought about telling him this method, but she imagined him exhausting himself to find the Gods and failing to return…remaining silent seemed like the better option.

This also was out of goodwill.

“Sleeping outside should have exhausted you two, so take a break okay? After you’ve rested enough we’ll take our time and think about things.”

Continuing this now wouldn't get them very far, so Alice made that proposal and Horun nodded her head in agreement.

"Can you take Kosuke to the guest room? I'll heat up the bath water."

"Thank you."

After Horun thanked her, she led Kosuke to one of the rooms.

Kosuke laid down on the bed and began to think about what he should do, but laying on a comfortable bed for the first time in a while made him lose consciousness quickly.

… Kosuke had a dream.

The same one as before.

He found himself in the hospital again.

Talking with that familiar girl.

Unlike his previous dream, the girl spoke with a less painful expression this time.

She would sometimes smile happily…that kind of dream.

… After finish her bath, Horun came to look for him.

She silently opened the door and saw him sleeping peacefully, so she closed the door just as quietly as she had opened it.

Horun went straight to her room after that.

Not even a minute passed before she fell asleep due to the accumulated fatigue.

Even though Alice stayed quiet as to not disturb the sleep of Horun and Kosuke, she was immersed in joy knowing Horun was still alive.

Chapter 03

The time was 7pm. The two had slept for about 5 hours and were woken by the attractive smell of food.

After they got enough sleep, their bodies changed priority from sleep to food.

“Are you awake? Come here and sit down, the food will be ready soon.”

Seeing Kosuke not understanding her she thought that the interpreting magic effect had ended and she cast it once again.

On the table there were three portions of bread and soup.

The sound of frying meat on a pan could be heard.

After smelling the meat Kosuke couldn’t help but gulp.

After Horun’s greeting he obediently sat in a chair.

Alice brought out the main dish which consisted of ham steak and cooked vegetables.

Before starting their meal, both Horun and Alice closed their eyes and performed the same action.

“Is that some religious rite? Do I also need to do that?”

After hearing Kosuke’s question, the two of them looked hesitant.

“What we did just now was express our thanks to the Gods of this world. This is something natural for us to do. Do you need to learn how to do it, Kosuke?

“If you want to blend in better you should probably learn it. Especially if there’s a situation where you’re in a hurry since everyone in this world does it. The movements are a bit different depending on the country, but you can learn their way when you get there. For now, stick to the way this country does it, okay?”

“My country had some that did something similar, it was done like this.”

Kosuke put his hands together, showing that he wants to start eating.

“Does Kosuke’s country also have similar rituals?”

“We show our gratitude not to god, but rather the food on the table. To all the plants and animals, and to the person who worked hard to gather everything. Other countries have rites where they give thanks to god before eating, but I don’t belong to any of those groups.”

Kosuke was talking about the Christian religion, but Kosuke´s family followed the Buddhist’s teachings.

Kosuke didn’t have a strong belief in it, but if a time ever came when he really needed it he would believe in it.

Pretty much the same level of belief as most people.

“Giving thanks to the food and ingredients? That’s quite interesting. Kosuke, for now just use the rite of your country and over time people will think it’s a unique rite of your hometown.”

“I understand.”

The three of them ended their dialogue and started to eat.

After not eating a proper meal for a while Kosuke was eating without restraint.

Horun was smiling and Alice could hear Kosuke saying in between gulps that the food was delicious.

After finally being able to eat a meal in a relaxing environment Horun had also eaten more than usual.

The food that Alice had prepared was quickly devoured by the two.

Seeing them satisfied by the food Alice was also happy.

After Kosuke placed his hands together to signify that we was full, Alice asked if that was also part of his rite. He nodded in confirmation.

As Horun and Alice put away the dishes, the three of them continued the talk from earlier.

Horun began with a submissive mood but Kosuke wasn’t as depressed as before.

The food and drink had put him in a good mood.

He was the kind of person that would change moods fast. His parents and

friends also said he gave up too easily.

He felt at ease since he didn't know about that last part.

"Continuing from earlier…if we keep thinking about what happened we'll all just get headaches so we should quit while we're ahead. The solution will probably become clear someday. Instead of worrying about what has happened, we should worry more about what will happen from now on. Since I know nothing about this world I imagine it will be very hard for me to live here.

Even on Earth each country had different values and common sense.

He's in another world now…Kosuke couldn't even imagine the difference.

Kosuke realized just how many problems he's going to have after thinking about the future.

He can't even protect himself in this world.

For now that doesn't matter since Alice is giving him a free room to stay in.

But what will happen after he leaves? Can he survive?

Kosuke became uneasy.

"Even if I can't send you back to you world I will make sure you can live in this one. You can trust me."

"I won't neglect the savior of Horun. If you have any questions feel free to ask."

Kosuke bowed out of thanks to their goodwill.

"About the questions you have regarding this world…can we save them for later? I want to know what happened after you came to this world and before you met Horun. Can you tell me?

Since it wasn't a big secret Kosuke nodded and told his story to them.

While reviewing what happened nothing became clear. It was still a mystery.

"After I regained my consciousness I had already landed, and that's all."

Horun continued with what she discovered after she found Kosuke so Alice roughly grasped what happened.

“So Kosuke crashed into the dragon’s weak spot…it’d be rather difficult to shatter one’s shoulder otherwise.”

“After receiving such a serious injury I actually survived…”

Learning he had been gravely injured, his face drained of color.

He’d never had such a serious injury his whole life. He couldn’t even imagine his state at that moment.

“You survived thanks for Horun’s healing and the power you absorbed from the dragon.”

These weren’t the only reasons, but nobody had realized it.

Alice continued to talk with Kosuke.

“Horun is one of the best doctors on this continent, in regards to healing she’s a natural genius. Since she treated you, she would have been able to heal even the deepest of injuries. They say that she could even bring you back from the gates of hell as long as there is still life in you.”

“That’s amazing. Thank you, Horun. Thank you for saving my life.”

Having medical skills on top of her beauty, she is most likely very popular, thought Kosuke while bowing his head.

“Treating injuries is the job of a doctor and you are my savior as well. Of course I would save you.”

Savior. That word was confusing Kosuke.

“I keep hearing you call me your savior. Why? I killed the dragon, but what does that have to do with Horun?”

“Because Horun was originally a sacrifice.”

“Sacrifice…For the dragon to eat?”

“Yes. That monster came here 30 years ago and demanded 2 sacrifices every year.”

*“That’s quite a common tale.”

“Indeed.”

Although Alice had agreed with Kosuke, they had totally different views on the matter.

Kosuke had meant that is was a common fairy tale plot while Alice had meant that it was something that happened often in the past.

The two continued to talk.

“Not everyone can become a sacrifice. The dragon only ate human girls with outstanding abilities. If the sacrifice didn’t meet the conditions the dragon would go on a rampage. It had already destroyed a total of 10 cities and villages combined.” (TL: Damn picky dragon) “Was there nobody who could defeat it?”

In every fairy tale there was always a hero to save the day and kill the dragon.

“In the past there were many adventurers, brave knights, and heroic warriors that challenged the black dragon but all failed in the end. We slowly came to realize that we couldn’t beat the dragon and thus we accepted its demand. Eventually Horun’s turn came to be sacrificed.”

“Miss Alice, aren’t you a strong magician? Could you not do anything?”

In the fairy tales, magicians had always been the support for the heroes and brave warriors.

But reality it was different.

Alice hung her head. Horun tried encouraging her by putting her hand onto Alice’s shoulder.

“Alice tried her best. She used her magic to weaken the dragon but even when the dragon was weakened we still couldn’t beat it.”

“…Even though I was famous, I still couldn’t protect the person I hold dearest. I’m ashamed.”

The three of them went silent.

Horun’s hand was still on Alice’s shoulder, and the depressed Alice had placed her own hand on top of Horun’s.

In order to fix the gloomy atmosphere that he had caused with his indiscretion, Kosuke asked: “Ah, uh-about what you said before, I ‘absorbed the power of the

dragon’. What were you talking about?”
(TL: It literally says: “Ah,uh – We haven’t finish talking about the topic from before,[…]?” but I changed it a bit since I had the feeling that it would sound quite tactless.)(ED: You’re not wrong) Alice looked up, grateful for Kosuke’s kindness and answered:

“After killing a dragon, one can absorb its power and become stronger.”

“Absorption refers to?”

“Is there no concept of absorption in your world?”

“In my world, absorption is a phenomenon like the stomach absorbing nutrients from food, or fabrics absorbing moisture.”

“It seems your world doesn’t have a similar concept to ours. ‘Absorption’ refers to the killing of a monster or beast and taking their power.”

‘Like receiving experience points in an RPG’, though Kosuke.

In other words, its just like getting a lot of experience at once to level up and gain strength quickly.

Originally he was in a certain death situation but thanks to that ‘absorption’ he was able to be saved in time by Horun.

[It’s really worth it to be summoned to another world, especially one that has an EXP system.]

Even though he was in such a situation, Kosuke couldn’t help but be excited.

Thanks to taking the dragon’s power and Horun’s help, he was still alive. Though incidentally absorption and EXP weren’t the same concept.

One couldn’t receive the same amount of power from a monster again.

When one beat a monster a couple of times, the absorption rate would decrease slowly until it no longer took power from the fallen monster.

“From what you two have told me I should be much stronger than before. I don’t really feel different…ah, I didn’t feel tired at all during the trip here, could that be what you meant? My body would normally have been exhausted with such exercise.”

Even if he wanted to deny it that he had become strong, facts slowly appeared in his head.

“It seems like you understand now. Are you interested in testing your strength?”

“Do you have a measuring device?”

Alice nodded to Horun’s question and stood up.

“[Gaileien] wanted to replace their measuring device for a new one, so they took into account the development costs of the new one and decided to sell the old one. If you only use it occasionally it should last for a while.”

Alice left the room and returned rather quickly. She had returned with a metal plate about as big as a newspaper folder into a quarter, and metal cards.

She placed the metal plate on the table.

“Place your hand on the plate.”

“… something’s happening?”

After Kosuke put his hand on the plate, a surge of heat flowed from the tips of his fingers to his wrist.

After removing his hand from the plate, some letters surfaced.

But of course, Kosuke didn’t know the meaning of those letters.

Horun and Alice glanced from his sides at the plate, and both of their faces showed an astonished expression.

“…even though I had already guessed as much, seeing it is still a shock.”

“…being able to kill a dragon is really incredible.”

The two of them were surprised and perplexed at the same time.

This also proved how astounding the data on the plate was.

“Can you explain it to me? I don’t understand it.”

Kosuke asked them timidly.

“No problem. Then shall we start from here.”

Alice pointed at the plate as she spoke to Kousuke.

First the data is divided into five main parts: Strength, Endurance, Perception, Intelligence, and Spirit.

Strength, Endurance, and Perception are pretty self explanatory, while Intelligence represents wisdom and knowledge, and Spirit represents magical resistance and affinity.

There are also some subsections like Stamina, Magic and Agility. Those three are also pretty easy to understand.

Their values weren't represented with numbers but rather in ranks. These 15 ranks ranged from A+ to E-.

According to Alice, E is common, D is excellent, C is first-rate, B is to be feared, and A is worthy of worship. *(TL: Or in other words: God)*

Kosuke's stats were: Strength B+, Endurance B, Understanding B, Intelligence C+, and Spirit C-.

"Not even one A."

Kosuke thought those stats were rather underwhelming and just spoke his mind. Hearing that, Alice and Horun both showed a disapproving expression.

"Ah…you can only say that because you don't understand."

"If you had an A somewhere, our reaction would have been much different. We would have suspected this machine was defective."

"Is that so?"

Seeing the reaction of those two, Kosuke was confused at the difference in how these stats were treated.

"A normal adult male who doesn't serve the army would have something like: Strength E+, Endurance E+, Perception E, Intelligence E, and Spirit E. Knowing that, can you still take your stats so lightly? By the way, the dragon which you killed had its ranks averaged at B+. Such power is already that of a lesser God. That monster had the power to destroy a whole country. Your average is at B which is enough to destroy a whole town. Of course, that's just from looking at this data."

“…isn’t my power kind of ridiculously high?”

“Yes, it really is. In the history of humankind, the strongest hero, Marcus Tesco Rato, had only an overall rank of C!”

“Correct, he had an average of C. You’re already the strongest human on the planet.”

“This power I was granted is just too much…it doesn’t feel real for me.”

Kosuke disliked the power he received. Even though he has never been in a fight, he was given power beyond any human before him. Faced with this situation, he could only smile bitterly.

“You’re not to be blamed for this. You came from a world that lacked the concept of «Absorption». You’ll understand it sooner or later. I think we should talk about talent next. Even though you don’t have a talent, you have a title which is practically the same thing as a talent.”

“I’m curious about the title as well, but could you explain the talent thing first?”

“Talent refers to the special abilities of an individual. Horun and I have innate talents, while yours came about from some unknown source.”

“There is a saying that a talent is really a gift from God. My talent is «Heal 3» while Alice’s is «Magic Fusion 2». One can receive such a talent from birth, or from some rare source.” “What to those numerals mean?”

“The numbers represent the size of the effect and its potency. It goes from 1 to 3, and the higher the number is, the stronger the effect is. The numbers can be increased, but I’m not sure how to do that yet. I heard that if you practice enough, you can improve your talent.”

“Does everyone in this world have a talent?”

“No, more like one in every ten people has a talent.”

Kosuke nodded, it seems a talent isn’t rare to have.

But someone who has a talent isn’t always aware that a talent is slumbering within them.

If one narrowed it down to those who know about their talent, it would be about 1 out of 100.

“Now to explain the title. A title might be given to you by God, or it could be received by achieving something. Even from how the people around you perceive you.”

“An example would be the title «Giant Killer». The hero Marcus Tesco Rato achieved that title from slaying a giant.”

Alice nodded in agreement and added onto the explanation:

“A talent has an impact on one’s quality and ability. Now, a person can have an infinite amount of titles, but can only choose one to be in effect. Choosing is pretty simplistic, you just concentrate on the name of the title and it will come into effect. You can change your title once a day, keep that in mind. My title is «Genius Witch» which raises my magical abilities, while Horun’s title is «Leilier’s Favored».”

It seems the effects of Horun’s title are medical and healing related.

“Leilier is?”

“The Goddess of Medicine.”

“Really? Then what is my title?”

“Your title is «Dragon Slayer 2». Like I said earlier, there is a number because your title and talent are the same. The effect of «Dragon Slayer» raises your overall stats by one, the overall amount is determined by the number after it. Though, the effect of your title should include more, since increasing all stats by one is the effect of «Dragon Slayer 1». If I were to give it my best guess, looking at how other titles interact with people…your stats weren’t the only things that have been affected. In other words, all of your actions will be influenced. Of course, this is just my guess, so take it with a grain of salt.”

This title was one of the reasons Kosuke managed to survive.
(TL: When he crashed against the dragon and nearly died)

After he absorbed the power of the dragon and got stronger, he obtained the title which further reinforced his body and his natural healing speed.

“That’s such a cheat.”

Although it was his own power, Kosuke still found it absurd.

“Cheat?”

“It means to break the rules.”

After hearing the description, Alice nodded.

“That’s right. If all of your actions are going to be affected, then it means your learning ability is also improved. Your growth may actually not have a limit. In the eyes of others, you would be very cunning. That title is very fitting for killing the strongest dragon.”

“Strongest Dragon?”

“Well…the Dragon which died by your hand was the highest class of the dragon species.”

“…Such a strong monster really died after being hit once in his weak point?”

Kosuke couldn’t help but be baffled. The highest class of a species, unable to overcome such a crippling weakness?
In his confusion, Kosuke forgot something important.

All living things have a weakness. Some of which cannot be overcome or compensated for.

Any biological life would fade and die if the brain or heart were destroyed.

The scale that Kosuke had crashed into just happened to be that weakness.

“That collision was rather powerful, after all. You almost lost your life just from the impact, it was most likely more powerful than you imagined. Couple that with the fact that you hit the dragon’s weak point…but in the end, we can’t verify it anymore. Well, that’s not*entirely* true. I could perform an autopsy to figure it out, but I don’t want to get near that beast.”

“Well, you were terrorized by it after all. Is there anything else to discuss?”

“Other than the cards, I can’t think of anything else that would need explaining.”

“Yes. Even if we forgot, we can always explain afterwards.”

“True.”

Alice put the metal card on the plate.

The text on the plate slowly disappeared, and after about ten seconds the plate was blank again.

She picked up the card and gave it to Kosuke.

Text appeared on the card, but Kosuke could only recognize his own name.

“This card is kind of like an identity card, so be careful not to lose it. The information on it will only show under the consent of the owner, so it’s rather suitable to prove your identity.”

“I can only read my name. What else is written here?”

“The city and country which serve as your homeland. Your card shows Ricardo of Piriaru Kingdom.”

“Ricardo was chosen as his home town?”

“It’s probably because he’s currently here. It was most likely impossible to show his original residence.”

“Where is Ricardo?”

“From here? On foot it would take about 2 hours to walk there. I also live in Ricardo.”

Horun said while pointing in the direction of the city.

“The only things that will automatically appear on your card will be your name and homeland. The remaining data will only show if you want it to. Now, since the explaining is done with, time to figure out what Horun is going to do from here on out.”

Alice finished her conversation with Kosuke. He was internally thankful since he had a lot of information to go over.

“Would it be better if I leave?”

“No, it’s fine for you to stay and listen. I’m just worried you’ll be bored.”

Horun gave her permission easily. Kosuke decided to stay and listen.

“Horun, do you have any idea what you’ll do from now on?”

“I’ve given it some thought…if possible I would like to stay here for a while. If you could contact my family for me…I’m afraid going back now would cause a huge commotion.”

“It really would cause an uproar…”

One could easily imagine the result. Alice smiled through the oncoming headache.

“I hope you can relay my well-being to my family, as well as confirmation of the dragon’s death. Once everyone has accepted that the dragon is dead, I will return. If I go back to my family before that…my family will most likely suffer a lot. If people spread rumors about the Earl’s daughter running away, other nobles will seize the opportunity and we’ll have to deal with a lot of unnecessary problems.”

“Earl?”

Even though Kosuke wanted to be just an observer, he couldn’t help but react.

“Yes, I’m the eldest daughter of the Earl, if we go by age.”
(ED: “by age” seems to refer to hereditary peerage. Since Horun was due to be sacrificed, she ‘surrendered’ her right to take on the title of Earl once her father passed, therefore the younger sibling will take on that mantle. She is still the oldest, but has given up her rights as ‘royalty’. Of course, if she has a male sibling then this is moot. I’m trying my best here.)

“This is the first time I’ve seen an aristocrat.”

Kosuke opened his eyes as if seeing something incredible.

He couldn’t help but be surprised, you wouldn’t even see someone with such a title on TV.

Kosuke had only seen a photo of royalty before, but this was the first time he had actually met one face-to-face.
(TL: well I would also be surprised or more shocked if the one that I traveled with is a noble)

“Kosuke, does your neighbourhood not have any aristocratic mansions?”

“We don’t have any aristocrats in our country. About 100 years ago there was the Wu family, which had a similar rank, but it has long since perished. Although

there are gaps between the people, more or less everyone is equal.”

“So…you’re saying that your country doesn’t have any kings or nobility, only civilians? How is your country managed?”

“Our country has a emperor, which is similar to a king, but the emperor is only a symbol of our country and does not take part in national politics. The ones whom actually operate the country are a group of representatives elected by the citizens.”

“It sounds like Qiuhan City.” (Temporary name)

Horun remembered about a continent next to Kaer Huode.

Quihan was suppressed by another country in the past, but then they stood up for themselves and gained independence.
(TL: like America)

After eliminating the interference of nobility, they represented themselves with a public representative.

The only way it differs from Japan would be eligibility for voting. You needed to own a store of a minimum size to be able to vote, it didn’t matter how old you were.

“Horun, when you were chosen as sacrifice, couldn’t you use your rights to save you?”

“If I did that, at worst I would have been stripped of my title.”

“Why? Aren’t aristocrats of a higher rank? Doesn’t that grant you some privileges?”

“Sacrificing one for the good of the many. That’s the basic idea of nobility. If one person’s life can save the whole country, shutting off your emotions and sacrificing yourself is the way to go. Even I’m afraid of death, but I accepted that I had been chosen as the sacrifice.”
(TL: Noblesse Oblige, well from the most stories I have read there aren’t that much which follow that)

“I can understand how those values work, but I could never agree to it.”

Kosuke understood Horun’s explanation, but even if his life could save

thousands, he wouldn't be able to sacrifice himself.

"Such a noble sentiment…civilians like us can't do something like that. To just throw your life away after being told to, it's the same as being crazy."

After saying that, Alice looked at Horun. Horun had a wry smile on her face.

Horun came to understand that she held different views and values from Kosuke and Alice.

Being able to understand that, Horun is a black sheep within nobility.

"My values don't perfectly align with the rest of the aristocracy. When I was 2 years old, it had already been decided I was to be the sacrifice. I only received the most basic education and was able to live my life rather freely. If I had been educated and bred to be a proper, distinguished member of the nobility, I think I would have been happy. Happy to have the chance to voluntarily sacrifice my life for my country. If someone had come to rescue me, I would have angrily rejected their kindness. Nobles are funny in that sense, though. They act for their own selfish interests unless the country is in danger, even though they say the well being of their country is the most important thing to them."

"This world is really hard to understand."

Kosuke recalled what he knew about nobility on Earth, but he only really knew what was needed to pass tests. He was never taught things like this, so he couldn't comprehend or compare.

"You don't need to force yourself to understand it. Moving on, you want me to tell your family that you're safe?"

"Yes."

"I can do that, but the question is how to contact them. I don't want to visit your home, but just a letter would be seen as a sick prank."

"Right, and please make sure you keep Kosuke's title confidential. The «Dragon Slayer» title is kind of a big deal."

Horun is very clear about this topic, since the uproar from my title would cause more commotion than her being alive.

"If the nobles found out about the appearance of the «Dragon Slayer», they

would rush to be the first to exploit it. Kosuke shouldn't know how to deal with them, so he would be pushed around. Kosuke, are you able to handle nobles?"

"If you're asking if I can hold a conversation with nobility, no I can't. The only way I can think of to cope with them would be saying [I want to slaughter you], but that's a little terrifying."

That being said, slaughter is easier said than done.

If it's just destruction of property, then it's easy. But harming or killing innocent bystanders is something beyond Kosuke.

Using threats isn't an option for the nobles either.

Kosuke, at this moment, had the power to destroy the streets of a city. In the future, after learning magic and proper fighting methods, destroying a city isn't impossible.

If any noble dared to annoy Kosuke or damage his territory, then they would be bound to suffer losses.

Unless they're stupid to the point of it being incurable, they should understand that much.

Even though Kosuke may become a wanted target, if he stayed in the countryside of another Continent he would probably be left alone.

"Doing that is possible, but you need to make sure it's believable. Otherwise you'll end up putting yourself into a precarious position. At worst, you'll have the whole country as your enemy. Make sure you're mentally prepared for that possibility."

"I just have to avoid coming into contact with nobility."

"That's right. Also, there are some shops which tend to have contact with aristocrats, so you need to be careful."

"I understand. Anyway, I know that the title «Dragon Slayer» is something special, but is the presence of a «Dragon Slayer» also special?"

"Ah, if we include you, then there have only been three."

Alice briefly explained about the other two Slayers.

The first «Dragon Slayer» appeared 5000 years ago, while the second appeared 2200 years ago.

The dragons slain by them had an average rank of B-, which meant they were lesser dragons.

They both gained the title of «Dragon Slayer» due to the sacrifices of their comrades.
(TL: It means that they fought together with their comrades but they died in the fight while he killed the dragon)

Therefore, this was the first time that someone had killed an upper class dragon, on top of doing so single-handedly, in their history.

If the aristocrats came to know that, who knows what they would do to get Kosuke.

“Having records from over 5000 years ago is quite remarkable.”

If one converted it to Japanese history, it would have been during the Jomon period.

Kosuke was very surprised by this, since places on Earth with a long history and rich culture such as Egypt and China, and of course Japan, had very few records from that long ago.

“Records from that long ago should not be remembered.”

Kosuke had been admiring the existence of such records until Horun denied it. Kosuke’s expression rapidly turned to astonishment.

“…If there are no records, how do you know the legends of your «Dragon Slayer»s?”

“Even without records, as long one asks God, one will know it. The things which happened back then are still in the memory of God. In fact, there is a book which tells us our history as God told us. Everything I explained to you was from that book.”
(ED: Bibles are real here .-.)

Hearing that unexpected line, Kosuke stopped what he was doing.

The truth that God existed shocked him.

“…God is real? You’re not joking, right?”

“Of course it’s true. Why is that surprising? Could it be that there is not God in your world?”

“We have myths and legends about them, but there isn’t any evidence that they exist. Let alone holding a conversation with one. If you went around promoting that God existed, you were considered a little wrong in the head.”

“If there is no God, then how was your world created?”

“Some say by accident, some say miracles. There is also a reasonable argument that explains how everything was created without God.”
(ED: He’s referencing the Big Bang theory at the end)

“Religious people can’t believe in something like that.”

“I can’t image a world without the existence of god.”

“I believe it’s because the two worlds are so different.”

Kosuke wanted to convince himself with that.

“Perhaps accepting that conclusion will make it easier on everyone.”

Other people are other people, but we are ourselves.

Thinking that way is good for both sides.

Thinking about a world without god is meaningless right now.

Because he exists in this world.

Thinking about this question, at best, would yield ideas for a drama or novel.

“Since this world has a god, I just need to go and ask them how to get home, don’t I?”

Thinking that he had a good idea, Kosuke smiled.

But Alice shook her head.

“I don’t know where to find God. We may be able to talk to him, but meeting him directly is not within our power. Even talking to him requires a person with a rare talent, and for now we won’t be able to find such a person. We can only listen to God’s words, but since we cannot do anything but listen there is no true

way to communicate.”

“Are there buildings where dedicated believers gather?”

“There is, why?”

“If someone goes there, they should be able to talk to god, right?”

A God should take special care about his followers, so Kosuke asked about it.

“Those people want to pray to God, so God will not particularly care about them. In the eyes of God, the Church has less worth than a place which has caught his eye. Hearing an oracle can happen outside of a church, which proves that point.”

There apparently was a case where God approached a devout believer that was holding a cat he had been raising.

“Is that so? I thought I had a good idea.”

“To be honest with you, I already thought about doing something like that. Meeting God isn’t easy, and I decided not to tell you about that option since he may not know how to send you back. My apologies.”

This was probably because of the different values Alice and Kosuke had.

God, on Earth, has an omnipotent image to the inhabitants.

But unlike Earth, the God of this world is an important being to every human. There were also examples where he is proven to not be omnipotent.

“Let’s get back on topic now, shall we? Let’s focus on how to pass along the news that Horun is safe and the Dragon is dead. The most reliable way to relay this would be to personally visit your home, but I really don’t want to go there.”

“I’ll personally write a letter. All you have to do is send it with some of the scales we brought as evidence. People should believe it then.”

“Should we lie and say the dragon died due to disease or an accident? As long as we leave a little room for imagination, they should come to their own conclusion.”

“Won’t someone suspect that a Dragonslayer has appeared?”

“Probably, but even if there was someone who figured that out, the possibility

is so low that they would doubt it themselves. The most likely conclusion will be that a High Elf killed it, or the dragon died of natural causes.”
(TL: Not sure with the High Elf since it also has other meanings 大精靈)

“If they end up with that answer, that will work perfectly for us. Here’s hoping.”
(TL: The chinese text says 萬歲萬歲萬萬歲了 which was used in medieval china to greet the emperor, but it can also stand for something one says when they won something)
(ED: Banzai was originally at the end. English equiv pl0x)

Killing a dragon is an impossible task.

That was one of the human sayings, but it was a shared thought among all the races that have been attacked by the dragon. They would rather believe it was killed by God or another Higher Being.

But one couldn’t rule out that a great diviner will foresee the existence of the Dragonslayer.

Even so, Alice wasn’t worried about Kosuke’s identity being leaked.

Even if the divinator knows about the existence of the Dragonslayer, he can’t see the identity.

Such an accurate divination is impossible among humans.

At best, they could detect in which country he is staying.

Even if someone asked Horun whether she saw the Dragonslayer, Horun just needed to insist that the Dragonslayer had already left before she arrived at the Black Dragon. With that, the other party couldn’t continue questioning her.

“Well, even so, I will need to go to the mountain tomorrow and confirm the position of the corpse. If needed, I will attack the belly with magic. After that’s dealt with, I’ll head to your home and give the Earl the dragon’s location. They should start investigating themselves.”

After the three of them decided what to do tomorrow, they chatted a bit to pass time.

The topic was about the world where Kosuke came from, the difference between the two world surprised Horun and Alice.

As the night progressed, Kosuke and Horun were sent to bed early by Alice.

Alice took some wine out of her collection, and toasted to Horun’s safety as well as the dragon’s death.

After drinking it, she joyfully went to bed.

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Part 1

Hajiko: Here is part 1 of the third chapter. In the last post I made a mistake with the name of the chapter since I forgot a part of it so I´m really sorry. Enjoy

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Chapter 3 –The Reason for the Sudden Birth of a Superman [Part 1]

The time was 7pm. The two had slept for about 5 hours and were woken by the attractive smell of food.

After they got enough sleep, their bodies changed priority from sleep to food.

“Are you awake? Come here and sit down, the food will be ready soon.”

Seeing Kosuke not understanding her she thought that the interpreting magic effect had ended and she cast it once again.

On the table there were three portions of bread and soup.

The sound of frying meat on a pan could be heard.

After smelling the meat Kosuke couldn’t help but gulp.

After Horun’s greeting he obediently sat in a chair.

Alice brought out the main dish which consisted of ham steak and cooked vegetables.

Before starting their meal, both Horun and Alice closed their eyes and performed the same action.

“Is that some religious rite? Do I also need to do that?”

After hearing Kosuke’s question, the two of them looked hesitant.

“What we did just now was express our thanks to the Gods of this world. This is something natural for us to do. Do you need to learn how to do it, Kosuke?

“If you want to blend in better you should probably learn it. Especially if there’s a situation where you’re in a hurry since everyone in this world does it. The movements are a bit different depending on the country, but you can learn their

way when you get there. For now, stick to the way this country does it, okay?”

“My country had some that did something similar, it was done like this.”

Kosuke put his hands together, showing that he wants to start eating.

“Does Kosuke’s country also have similar rituals?”

“We show our gratitude not to god, but rather the food on the table. To all the plants and animals, and to the person who worked hard to gather everything. Other countries have rites where they give thanks to god before eating, but I don’t belong to any of those groups.”

Kosuke was talking about the Christian religion, but Kosuke´s family followed the Buddhist’s teachings.

Kosuke didn’t have a strong belief in it, but if a time ever came when he really needed it he would believe in it.

Pretty much the same level of belief as most people.

“Giving thanks to the food and ingredients? That’s quite interesting. Kosuke, for now just use the rite of your country and over time people will think it’s a unique rite of your hometown.”

“I understand.”

The three of them ended their dialogue and started to eat.

After not eating a proper meal for a while Kosuke was eating without restraint.

Horun was smiling and Alice could hear Kosuke saying in between gulps that the food was delicious.

After finally being able to eat a meal in a relaxing environment Horun had also eaten more than usual.

The food that Alice had prepared was quickly devoured by the two.

Seeing them satisfied by the food Alice was also happy.

After Kosuke placed his hands together to signify that we was full, Alice asked if that was also part of his rite. He nodded in confirmation.

As Horun and Alice put away the dishes, the three of them continued the talk

from earlier.

Horun began with a submissive mood but Kosuke wasn't as depressed as before.

The food and drink had put him in a good mood.

He was the kind of person that would change moods fast. His parents and friends also said he gave up too easily.

He felt at ease since he didn't know about that last part.

"Continuing from earlier…if we keep thinking about what happened we'll all just get headaches so we should quit while we're ahead. The solution will probably become clear someday. Instead of worrying about what has happened, we should worry more about what will happen from now on. Since I know nothing about this world I imagine it will be very hard for me to live here.

Even on Earth each country had different values and common sense.

He's in another world now…Kosuke couldn't even imagine the difference.

Kosuke realized just how many problems he's going to have after thinking about the future.

He can't even protect himself in this world.

For now that doesn't matter since Alice is giving him a free room to stay in.

But what will happen after he leaves? Can he survive?

Kosuke became uneasy.

"Even if I can't send you back to you world I will make sure you can live in this one. You can trust me."

"I won't neglect the savior of Horun. If you have any questions feel free to ask."

Kosuke bowed out of thanks to their goodwill.

"About the questions you have regarding this world…can we save them for later? I want to know what happened after you came to this world and before you met Horun. Can you tell me?

Since it wasn’t a big secret Kosuke nodded and told his story to them.

While reviewing what happened nothing became clear. It was still a mystery.

“After I regained my consciousness I had already landed, and that’s all.”

Horun continued with what she discovered after she found Kosuke so Alice roughly grasped what happened.

“So Kosuke crashed into the dragon’s weak spot…it’d be rather difficult to shatter one’s shoulder otherwise.”

“After receiving such a serious injury I actually survived…”

Learning he had been gravely injured, his face drained of color.

He’d never had such a serious injury his whole life. He couldn’t even imagine his state at that moment.

“You survived thanks for Horun’s healing and the power you absorbed from the dragon.”

These weren’t the only reasons, but nobody had realized it.

Alice continued to talk with Kosuke.

Part 2

Hajiko: Here is part 2. There is not much for me to say right now except “Enjoy”.

Xant: Didn’t take too long to edit thankfully. Busy day.

Chapter 3 – The Reason for the Sudden Birth of a Superman [Part 2]

“Horun is one of the best doctors on this continent, in regards to healing she’s a natural genius. Since she treated you, she would have been able to heal even the deepest of injuries. They say that she could even bring you back from the gates of hell as long as there is still life in you.”

“That’s amazing. Thank you, Horun. Thank you for saving my life.”

Having medical skills on top of her beauty, she is most likely very popular, thought Kosuke while bowing his head.

“Treating injuries is the job of a doctor and you are my savior as well. Of course I would save you.”

Savior. That word was confusing Kosuke.

“I keep hearing you call me your savior. Why? I killed the dragon, but what does that have to do with Horun?”

“Because Horun was originally a sacrifice.”

“Sacrifice…For the dragon to eat?”

“Yes. That monster came here 30 years ago and demanded 2 sacrifices every year.”

*“That’s quite a common tale.”

“Indeed.”

Although Alice had agreed with Kosuke, they had totally different views on the matter.

Kosuke had meant that is was a common fairy tale plot while Alice had meant

that it was something that happened often in the past.

The two continued to talk.

“Not everyone can become a sacrifice. The dragon only ate human girls with outstanding abilities. If the sacrifice didn’t meet the conditions the dragon would go on a rampage. It had already destroyed a total of 10 cities and villages combined.” (TL: Damn picky dragon) “Was there nobody who could defeat it?”

In every fairy tale there was always a hero to save the day and kill the dragon.

“In the past there were many adventurers, brave knights, and heroic warriors that challenged the black dragon but all failed in the end. We slowly came to realize that we couldn’t beat the dragon and thus we accepted its demand. Eventually Horun’s turn came to be sacrificed.”

“Miss Alice, aren’t you a strong magician? Could you not do anything?”

In the fairy tales, magicians had always been the support for the heroes and brave warriors.

But reality it was different.

Alice hung her head. Horun tried encouraging her by putting her hand onto Alice’s shoulder.

“Alice tried her best. She used her magic to weaken the dragon but even when the dragon was weakened we still couldn’t beat it.”

“…Even though I was famous, I still couldn’t protect the person I hold dearest. I’m ashamed.”

The three of them went silent.

Horun’s hand was still on Alice’s shoulder, and the depressed Alice had placed her own hand on top of Horun’s.

In order to fix the gloomy atmosphere that he had caused with his indiscretion, Kosuke asked: “Ah, uh-about what you said before, I ‘absorbed the power of the dragon’. What were you talking about?”
(TL: It literally says: “Ah,uh – We haven’t finish talking about the topic from before,[…]?” but I changed it a bit since I had the feeling that it would sound quite tactless.)(ED: You’re not wrong) Alice looked up, grateful for Kosuke’s

kindness and answered:

“After killing a dragon, one can absorb its power and become stronger.”

“Absorption refers to?”

“Is there no concept of absorption in your world?”

“In my world, absorption is a phenomenon like the stomach absorbing nutrients from food, or fabrics absorbing moisture.”

“It seems your world doesn’t have a similar concept to ours. ‘Absorption’ refers to the killing of a monster or beast and taking their power.”

‘Like receiving experience points in an RPG’, though Kosuke.

In other words, its just like getting a lot of experience at once to level up and gain strength quickly.

Originally he was in a certain death situation but thanks to that ‘absorption’ he was able to be saved in time by Horun.

[It’s really worth it to be summoned to another world, especially one that has an EXP system.]

Even though he was in such a situation, Kosuke couldn’t help but be excited.

Thanks to taking the dragon’s power and Horun’s help, he was still alive. Though incidentally absorption and EXP weren’t the same concept.

One couldn’t receive the same amount of power from a monster again.

When one beat a monster a couple of times, the absorption rate would decrease slowly until it no longer took power from the fallen monster.

“From what you two have told me I should be much stronger than before. I don’t really feel different…ah, I didn’t feel tired at all during the trip here, could that be what you meant? My body would normally have been exhausted with such exercise.”

Even if he wanted to deny it that he had become strong, facts slowly appeared in his head.

“It seems like you understand now. Are you interested in testing your strength?”

“Do you have a measuring device?”

Alice nodded to Horun’s question and stood up.

“[Gaileien] wanted to replace their measuring device for a new one, so they took into account the development costs of the new one and decided to sell the old one. If you only use it occasionally it should last for a while.”

Alice left the room and returned rather quickly. She had returned with a metal plate about as big as a newspaper folder into a quarter, and metal cards.

She placed the metal plate on the table.

Part 3

Hajiko: Sorry took longer than expected I had many things to do last week as well as the accidents which happened. So finally we know what the strength of Kosuke is as well as some other information. So in the next part we will find out his Title but I think the most of you already have a premonition of what it will be but it will probably not 100% right. As well I will try to translate the next part in this week like promised. So enough from me Enjoy Xant: Hajiko wanted me to start using my <> brackets. If you need an explanation of how they work, I did a writeup on my wordpress found here.

"Place your hand on the plate."

"… something's happening?"

After Kosuke put his hand on the plate, a surge of heat flowed from the tips of his fingers to his wrist.

After removing his hand from the plate, some letters surfaced.

But of course, Kosuke didn't know the meaning of those letters.

Horun and Alice glanced from his sides at the plate, and both of their faces showed an astonished expression.

"…even though I had already guessed as much, seeing it is still a shock."

"…being able to kill a dragon is really incredible."

The two of them were surprised and perplexed at the same time.

This also proved how astounding the data on the plate was.

"Can you explain it to me? I don't understand it."

Kosuke asked them timidly.

"No problem. Then shall we start from here."

Alice pointed at the plate as she spoke to Kousuke.

First the data is divided into five main parts: Strength, Endurance, Perception,

Intelligence, and Spirit.

Strength, Endurance, and Perception are pretty self explanatory, while Intelligence represents wisdom and knowledge, and Spirit represents magical resistance and affinity.

There are also some subsections like Stamina, Magic and Agility. Those three are also pretty easy to understand.

Their values weren't represented with numbers but rather in ranks. These 15 ranks ranged from A+ to E-.

According to Alice, E is common, D is excellent, C is first-rate, B is to be feared, and A is worthy of worship. *(TL: Or in other words: God)*

Kosuke's stats were: Strength B+, Endurance B, Understanding B, Intelligence C+, and Spirit C-.

"Not even one A."

Kosuke thought those stats were rather underwhelming and just spoke his mind. Hearing that, Alice and Horun both showed a disapproving expression.

"Ah…you can only say that because you don't understand."

"If you had an A somewhere, our reaction would have been much different. We would have suspected this machine was defective."

"Is that so?"

Seeing the reaction of those two, Kosuke was confused at the difference in how these stats were treated.

"A normal adult male who doesn't serve the army would have something like: Strength E+, Endurance E+, Perception E, Intelligence E, and Spirit E. Knowing that, can you still take your stats so lightly? By the way, the dragon which you killed had its ranks averaged at B+. Such power is already that of a lesser God. That monster had the power to destroy a whole country. Your average is at B which is enough to destroy a whole town. Of course, that's just from looking at this data."

"…isn't my power kind of ridiculously high?"

“Yes, it really is. In the history of humankind, the strongest hero, Marcus Tesco Rato, had only an overall rank of C!”

“Correct, he had an average of C. You’re already the strongest human on the planet.”

“This power I was granted is just too much…it doesn’t feel real for me.”

Kosuke disliked the power he received. Even though he has never been in a fight, he was given power beyond any human before him. Faced with this situation, he could only smile bitterly.

“You’re not to be blamed for this. You came from a world that lacked the concept of <Absorption>. You’ll understand it sooner or later. I think we should talk about talent next. Even though you don’t have a talent, you have a title which is practically the same thing as a talent.”

“I’m curious about the title as well, but could you explain the talent thing first?”

“Talent refers to the special abilities of an individual. Horun and I have innate talents, while yours came about from some unknown source.”

“There is a saying that a talent is really a gift from God. My talent is <Heal 3> while Alice’s is <Magic Fusion 2>. One can receive such a talent from birth, or from some rare source.” “What to those numerals mean?”

“The numbers represent the size of the effect and its potency. It goes from 1 to 3, and the higher the number is, the stronger the effect is. The numbers can be increased, but I’m not sure how to do that yet. I heard that if you practice enough, you can improve your talent.”

“Does everyone in this world have a talent?”

“No, more like one in every ten people has a talent.”

Kosuke nodded, it seems a talent isn’t rare to have.

But someone who has a talent isn’t always aware that a talent is slumbering within them.

If one narrowed it down to those who know about their talent, it would be about 1 out of 100.

“Now to explain the title. A title might be given to you by God, or it could be received by achieving something. Even from how the people around you perceive you.”

“An example would be the title <Giant Killer>. The hero Marcus Tesco Rato achieved that title from slaying a giant.”

Alice nodded in agreement and added onto the explanation:

“A talent has an impact on one’s quality and ability. Now, a person can have an infinite amount of titles, but can only choose one to be in effect. Choosing is pretty simplistic, you just concentrate on the name of the title and it will come into effect. You can change your title once a day, keep that in mind. My title is <Genius Witch> which raises my magical abilities, while Horun’s title is <Leilier’s Favored>.”

It seems the effects of Horun’s title are medical and healing related.

“Leilier is?”

“The Goddess of Medicine.”

“Really? Then what is my title?”

Part 4

Hajiko: So here is part 4. Also about the Title of Kosuke I never thought that someone would guess it right, but I also never thought that there would be so many Ideas about his Title since I thought that it was simple to guess it partly right [Title of the Light Novel: Ryuugoroshi no Sugosuhibi] . So there are still 2 parts left till Chapter 3 is translated I will try to do it as fast as possible but I will excuse myself if it tacks longer since my finals are coming.

“Your title is <Dragon Slayer 2>. Like I said earlier, there is a number because your title and talent are the same. The effect of <Dragon Slayer> raises your overall stats by one, the overall amount is determined by the number after it. Though, the effect of your title should include more, since increasing all stats by one is the effect of <Dragon Slayer 1>. If I were to give it my best guess, looking at how other titles interact with people…your stats weren’t the only things that have been affected. In other words, all of your actions will be influenced. Of course, this is just my guess, so take it with a grain of salt.”

This title was one of the reasons Kosuke managed to survive.
(TL: When he crashed against the dragon and nearly died)

After he absorbed the power of the dragon and got stronger, he obtained the title which further reinforced his body and his natural healing speed.

“That’s such a cheat.”

Although it was his own power, Kosuke still found it absurd.

“Cheat?”

“It means to break the rules.”

After hearing the description, Alice nodded.

“That’s right. If all of your actions are going to be affected, then it means your learning ability is also improved. Your growth may actually not have a limit. In the eyes of others, you would be very cunning. That title is very fitting for killing

the strongest dragon.”

“Strongest Dragon?”

“Well…the Dragon which died by your hand was the highest class of the dragon species.”

“…Such a strong monster really died after being hit once in his weak point?”

Kosuke couldn’t help but be baffled. The highest class of a species, unable to overcome such a crippling weakness?
In his confusion, Kosuke forgot something important.

All living things have a weakness. Some of which cannot be overcome or compensated for.

Any biological life would fade and die if the brain or heart were destroyed.

The scale that Kosuke had crashed into just happened to be that weakness.

“That collision was rather powerful, after all. You almost lost your life just from the impact, it was most likely more powerful than you imagined. Couple that with the fact that you hit the dragon’s weak point…but in the end, we can’t verify it anymore. Well, that’s not *entirely* true. I could perform an autopsy to figure it out, but I don’t want to get near that beast.”

“Well, you were terrorized by it after all. Is there anything else to discuss?”

“Other than the cards, I can’t think of anything else that would need explaining.”

“Yes. Even if we forgot, we can always explain afterwards.”

“True.”

Alice put the metal card on the plate.

The text on the plate slowly disappeared, and after about ten seconds the plate was blank again.

She picked up the card and gave it to Kosuke.

Text appeared on the card, but Kosuke could only recognize his own name.

“This card is kind of like an identity card, so be careful not to lose it. The

information on it will only show under the consent of the owner, so it's rather suitable to prove your identity."

"I can only read my name. What else is written here?"

"The city and country which serve as your homeland. Your card shows Ricardo of Piriaru Kingdom."

"Ricardo was chosen as his home town?"

"It's probably because he's currently here. It was most likely impossible to show his original residence."

"Where is Ricardo?"

"From here? On foot it would take about 2 hours to walk there. I also live in Ricardo."

Horun said while pointing in the direction of the city.

"The only things that will automatically appear on your card will be your name and homeland. The remaining data will only show if you want it to. Now, since the explaining is done with, time to figure out what Horun is going to do from here on out."

Alice finished her conversation with Kosuke. He was internally thankful since he had a lot of information to go over.

"Would it be better if I leave?"

"No, it's fine for you to stay and listen. I'm just worried you'll be bored."

Horun gave her permission easily. Kosuke decided to stay and listen.

"Horun, do you have any idea what you'll do from now on?"

"I've given it some thought…if possible I would like to stay here for a while. If you could contact my family for me…I'm afraid going back now would cause a huge commotion."

"It really would cause an uproar…"

One could easily imagine the result. Alice smiled through the oncoming headache.

“I hope you can relay my well-being to my family, as well as confirmation of the dragon’s death. Once everyone has accepted that the dragon is dead, I will return. If I go back to my family before that…my family will most likely suffer a lot. If people spread rumors about the Earl’s daughter running away, other nobles will seize the opportunity and we’ll have to deal with a lot of unnecessary problems.”

“Earl?”

Even though Kosuke wanted to be just an observer, he couldn’t help but react.

“Yes, I’m the eldest daughter of the Earl, if we go by age.”
(ED: “by age” seems to refer to hereditary peerage. Since Horun was due to be sacrificed, she ‘surrendered’ her right to take on the title of Earl once her father passed, therefore the younger sibling will take on that mantle. She is still the oldest, but has given up her rights as ‘royalty’. Of course, if she has a male sibling then this is moot. I’m trying my best here.)

“This is the first time I’ve seen an aristocrat.”

Kosuke opened his eyes as if seeing something incredible.

He couldn’t help but be surprised, you wouldn’t even see someone with such a title on TV.

Kosuke had only seen a photo of royalty before, but this was the first time he had actually met one face-to-face.
(TL: well I would also be surprised or more shocked if the one that I traveled with is a noble)

“Kosuke, does your neighbourhood not have any aristocratic mansions?”

“We don’t have any aristocrats in our country. About 100 years ago there was the Wu family, which had a similar rank, but it has long since perished. Although there are gaps between the people, more or less everyone is equal.”

“So…you’re saying that your country doesn’t have any kings or nobility, only civilians? How is your country managed?”

“Our country has a emperor, which is similar to a king, but the emperor is only a symbol of our country and does not take part in national politics. The ones whom actually operate the country are a group of representatives elected by the citizens.”

Part 5

Hajiko: So here is part 5 well in the last part I said that I wanted to translate part 5 and 6 as fast as possible but I never thought that the first half of the 5th part was that hard (I´m not that good with some words since they are never used in normal conservation, so I don't know them) well enough from my problems enjoy

Xant: Body y u do dis, stahp illin ლ(ಠ益ಠლ)

Subnote from Xant: Please don't argue religion, this chapter is kind of loaded >_>

"It sounds like Qiuhan City." (Temporary name)

Horun remembered about a continent next to Kaer Huode.

Quihan was suppressed by another country in the past, but then they stood up for themselves and gained independence.
(TL: like America)

After eliminating the interference of nobility, they represented themselves with a public representative.

The only way it differs from Japan would be eligibility for voting. You needed to own a store of a minimum size to be able to vote, it didn't matter how old you were.

"Horun, when you were chosen as sacrifice, couldn't you use your rights to save you?"

"If I did that, at worst I would have been stripped of my title."

"Why? Aren't aristocrats of a higher rank? Doesn't that grant you some privileges?"

"Sacrificing one for the good of the many. That's the basic idea of nobility. If one person's life can save the whole country, shutting off your emotions and sacrificing yourself is the way to go. Even I'm afraid of death, but I accepted that I had been chosen as the sacrifice."

(TL: Noblesse Oblige, well from the most stories I have read there aren't that much which follow that)

"I can understand how those values work, but I could never agree to it."

Kosuke understood Horun's explanation, but even if his life could save thousands, he wouldn't be able to sacrifice himself.

"Such a noble sentiment…civilians like us can't do something like that. To just throw your life away after being told to, it's the same as being crazy."

After saying that, Alice looked at Horun. Horun had a wry smile on her face.

Horun came to understand that she held different views and values from Kosuke and Alice.

Being able to understand that, Horun is a black sheep within nobility.

"My values don't perfectly align with the rest of the aristocracy. When I was 2 years old, it had already been decided I was to be the sacrifice. I only received the most basic education and was able to live my life rather freely. If I had been educated and bred to be a proper, distinguished member of the nobility, I think I would have been happy. Happy to have the chance to voluntarily sacrifice my life for my country. If someone had come to rescue me, I would have angrily rejected their kindness. Nobles are funny in that sense, though. They act for their own selfish interests unless the country is in danger, even though they say the well being of their country is the most important thing to them."

"This world is really hard to understand."

Kosuke recalled what he knew about nobility on Earth, but he only really knew what was needed to pass tests. He was never taught things like this, so he couldn't comprehend or compare.

"You don't need to force yourself to understand it. Moving on, you want me to tell your family that you're safe?"

"Yes."

"I can do that, but the question is how to contact them. I don't want to visit your home, but just a letter would be seen as a sick prank."

"Right, and please make sure you keep Kosuke's title confidential. The <Dragon

Slayer> title is kind of a big deal.”

Horun is very clear about this topic, since the uproar from my title would cause more commotion than her being alive.

“If the nobles found out about the appearance of the <Dragon Slayer>, they would rush to be the first to exploit it. Kosuke shouldn’t know how to deal with them, so he would be pushed around. Kosuke, are you able to handle nobles?”

“If you’re asking if I can hold a conversation with nobility, no I can’t. The only way I can think of to cope with them would be saying [I want to slaughter you], but that’s a little terrifying.”

That being said, slaughter is easier said than done.

If it’s just destruction of property, then it’s easy. But harming or killing innocent bystanders is something beyond Kosuke.

Using threats isn’t an option for the nobles either.

Kosuke, at this moment, had the power to destroy the streets of a city. In the future, after learning magic and proper fighting methods, destroying a city isn’t impossible.

If any noble dared to annoy Kosuke or damage his territory, then they would be bound to suffer losses.

Unless they’re stupid to the point of it being incurable, they should understand that much.

Even though Kosuke may become a wanted target, if he stayed in the countryside of another Continent he would probably be left alone.

“Doing that is possible, but you need to make sure it’s believable. Otherwise you’ll end up putting yourself into a precarious position. At worst, you’ll have the whole country as your enemy. Make sure you’re mentally prepared for that possibility.”

“I just have to avoid coming into contact with nobility.”

“That’s right. Also, there are some shops which tend to have contact with aristocrats, so you need to be careful.”

“I understand. Anyway, I know that the title <Dragon Slayer> is something special, but is the presence of a <Dragon Slayer> also special?”

“Ah, if we include you, then there have only been three.”

Alice briefly explained about the other two Slayers.

The first <Dragon Slayer> appeared 5000 years ago, while the second appeared 2200 years ago.

The dragons slain by them had an average rank of B-, which meant they were lesser dragons.

They both gained the title of <Dragon Slayer> due to the sacrifices of their comrades.
(TL: It means that they fought together with their comrades but they died in the fight while he killed the dragon)

Therefore, this was the first time that someone had killed an upper class dragon, on top of doing so single-handedly, in their history.

If the aristocrats came to know that, who knows what they would do to get Kosuke.

“Having records from over 5000 years ago is quite remarkable.”

If one converted it to Japanese history, it would have been during the Jomon period.

Kosuke was very surprised by this, since places on Earth with a long history and rich culture such as Egypt and China, and of course Japan, had very few records from that long ago.

“Records from that long ago should not be remembered.”

Kosuke had been admiring the existence of such records until Horun denied it. Kosuke’s expression rapidly turned to astonishment.

“…If there are no records, how do you know the legends of your <Dragon Slayer>s?”

“Even without records, as long one asks God, one will know it. The things which happened back then are still in the memory of God. In fact, there is a book which tells us our history as God told us. Everything I explained to you was from

that book.”
(ED: Bibles are real here .-.)

Hearing that unexpected line, Kosuke stopped what he was doing.

The truth that God existed shocked him.

“…God is real? You’re not joking, right?”

“Of course it’s true. Why is that surprising? Could it be that there is not God in your world?”

“We have myths and legends about them, but there isn’t any evidence that they exist. Let alone holding a conversation with one. If you went around promoting that God existed, you were considered a little wrong in the head.”

“If there is no God, then how was your world created?”

“Some say by accident, some say miracles. There is also a reasonable argument that explains how everything was created without God.”
(ED: He’s referencing the Big Bang theory at the end)

Part 6

Hajiko: So here is the last part of Chapter 3 and the last part of the first Arc [Fallen into another World], the next Arc is named [Starting a life in another World] also the next chapter title is [Learning, exercise, continue learning and practice] I also looked for how many pages the next chapter is going to have and it is 35 pages while chapter 3 only had 27 pages. So enjoy.

“Religious people can’t believe in something like that.”

“I can’t image a world without the existence of god.”

“I believe it’s because the two worlds are so different.”

Kosuke wanted to convince himself with that.

“Perhaps accepting that conclusion will make it easier on everyone.”

Other people are other people, but we are ourselves.

Thinking that way is good for both sides.

Thinking about a world without god is meaningless right now.

Because he exists in this world.

Thinking about this question, at best, would yield ideas for a drama or novel.

“Since this world has a god, I just need to go and ask them how to get home, don’t I?”

Thinking that he had a good idea, Kosuke smiled.

But Alice shook her head.

“I don’t know where to find God. We may be able to talk to him, but meeting him directly is not within our power. Even talking to him requires a person with a rare talent, and for now we won’t be able to find such a person. We can only listen to God’s words, but since we cannot do anything but listen there is no true way to communicate.”

“Are there buildings where dedicated believers gather?”

“There is, why?”

“If someone goes there, they should be able to talk to god, right?”

A God should take special care about his followers, so Kosuke asked about it.

“Those people want to pray to God, so God will not particularly care about them. In the eyes of God, the Church has less worth than a place which has caught his eye. Hearing an oracle can happen outside of a church, which proves that point.”

There apparently was a case where God approached a devout believer that was holding a cat he had been raising.

“Is that so? I thought I had a good idea.”

“To be honest with you, I already thought about doing something like that. Meeting God isn’t easy, and I decided not to tell you about that option since he may not know how to send you back. My apologies.”

This was probably because of the different values Alice and Kosuke had.

God, on Earth, has an omnipotent image to the inhabitants.

But unlike Earth, the God of this world is an important being to every human. There were also examples where he is proven to not be omnipotent.

“Let’s get back on topic now, shall we? Let’s focus on how to pass along the news that Horun is safe and the Dragon is dead. The most reliable way to relay this would be to personally visit your home, but I really don’t want to go there.”

“I’ll personally write a letter. All you have to do is send it with some of the scales we brought as evidence. People should believe it then.”

“Should we lie and say the dragon died due to disease or an accident? As long as we leave a little room for imagination, they should come to their own conclusion.”

“Won’t someone suspect that a Dragonslayer has appeared?”

“Probably, but even if there was someone who figured that out, the possibility is so low that they would doubt it themselves. The most likely conclusion will be

that a High Elf killed it, or the dragon died of natural causes.”
(TL: Not sure with the High Elf since it also has other meanings 大精靈)

“If they end up with that answer, that will work perfectly for us. Here’s hoping.”
(TL: The chinese text says 萬歲萬歲萬萬歲了 which was used in medieval china to greet the emperor, but it can also stand for something one says when they won something)
(ED: Banzai was originally at the end. English equiv pl0x)

Killing a dragon is an impossible task.

That was one of the human sayings, but it was a shared thought among all the races that have been attacked by the dragon. They would rather believe it was killed by God or another Higher Being.

But one couldn’t rule out that a great diviner will foresee the existence of the Dragonslayer.

Even so, Alice wasn’t worried about Kosuke’s identity being leaked.

Even if the divinator knows about the existence of the Dragonslayer, he can’t see the identity.

Such an accurate divination is impossible among humans.

At best, they could detect in which country he is staying.

Even if someone asked Horun whether she saw the Dragonslayer, Horun just needed to insist that the Dragonslayer had already left before she arrived at the Black Dragon. With that, the other party couldn’t continue questioning her.

“Well, even so, I will need to go to the mountain tomorrow and confirm the position of the corpse. If needed, I will attack the belly with magic. After that’s dealt with, I’ll head to your home and give the Earl the dragon’s location. They should start investigating themselves.”

After the three of them decided what to do tomorrow, they chatted a bit to pass time.

The topic was about the world where Kosuke came from, the difference between the two world surprised Horun and Alice.

As the night progressed, Kosuke and Horun were sent to bed early by Alice.

Alice took some wine out of her collection, and toasted to Horun’s safety as well as the dragon’s death.

After drinking it, she joyfully went to bed.

Chapter 04

Hajiko: I know its been awhile since chapter 3 was done, so I ask for your guys forgiveness. Also chapter 4 was quite long, about 8000 + words so it took also quite a while to get it translated and because of that I will use the same method of translating and releasing chapter 5 like I did with chapter 2 (translating a part and release it , with that I mean that there will be at least one part done per week if not more[after Xant or KL are done with the edit]) .

Also this chapter was edited by our new member KL.

So enough from me Enjoy.

KL: Enjoy reading this chapter.

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4. Learning, exercise, continue Learning and Practice

"We will start with the lesson."

After eating breakfast, watching Alice flying away, Horun immediately proposed it to Kosuke who was next to her.

Even if it was said like a proposal, it was more like pressured.

Kosuke thought silently, if Horun was willing to wear glasses and a pointer and dressed up like a teacher, then he would be more motivated to learn.

(TL: Kosuke you already have a beautiful Girl teaching you what do you need more -.-) "Which kind of lesson?"

"I want to teach you the knowledge about our world. If you don't even have the basic knowledge, then it will be easy to get into trouble."

"Yes, then I will troubling you."

After ordering Kosuke to sit down, Horun went to Alice study and picked up materials.

Horun prior already received permission from Alice to use the study and the

placement of the materials were also told to her.

After taking the needed materials Horun came back to Kosuke and sat down next to him.

“First we will use the map of this continent to show you our location.”

Seeing Kosuke nodding, Horun spread out the piece of paper (map) at a place where both of them could look at it.

This map which the two are looking at now is from the “Sei fuxi ke” continent in which they live in, it was made by a magician which drew it while flying over the continent in the past, it was drawn accurate and detailed.

The sharp of the continent Sai fuxi ke was like a poker card, but only with the upper part being relatively bulge.

Horun’s slender finger pointed at the southwest of the continent.

“We are here now. Like we said yesterday, the forest which is nearby to Ricardo belongs to the territory of the Pili Ye Lu Kingdom. Ricardo is also not a very special city. From the population and area, it is ranked sixth in the country, but next to that there are no other features.”

“How many people live here?”

“If we count in all the villages which are nearby than …. It should be around 700.000. If it’s the capital then including the surrounding areas then it should be about 2 million. I heard that they recently went over 3 million.”

Pili ye lu Kingdom’s entire population is about 30 million.

In this world including human and nonhuman countries together there are 50 countries, all together there is a population of 1.5 billion.

“The capital has only that much people?”

“Only? Looking at the capital 2 million is really under the standard.”

“Our country’s center has about 7 Million people.”

Kosuke tried to recall the number of population of the 23 areas of Tokyo and said it.

“So you live in a big country, huh.”

“The area is not really big. There are many mountain terrains, so the population is focused at that place. It’s about like that.”

Horun was curious about how would they supply food and crops to the population in such a terrain.

They talked up to how to make red bean soup, when they noticed that they drifted away from the main topic.

“Lets leave this topic up to the next time.”

“Thats right, if we don’t stop we will go off topic to far. But I’m really happy to know there’s rice and miso in this world. Being able to eat familiar food is great.”

Although he didn’t know when he will have the opportunity to eat it, but Kosuke was really looking forward to it.

“I also only have heard of it. And it is not in this continent.”

“Just knowing that they exist in this world is good news. I hope that I can eat my fill someday.”

“I also want to taste fried rice and sushi. Uh, till where did we left off from before?”

“Our Location.”

Horun clapped her hands and pointed at the capital of the Pili Ye Lu Kingdom.

She said the approximate location of each main city, but also the time which is needed to get there by foot, carriage, and a flying vehicle.

As the name suggest the flying vehicle is a vehicle which is flying.

From the appearance it looks like a flying carriage.

(TL: Chinese raws says bus but chose carriage since it would make more sense for a medieval world.) The fuel is magic which were collected from magicians.

Because the fare is expensive generally only the rich used them.

Unless one is in hurry, otherwise it is rarely used by the general public.

Only royalty or the family of a Duke will have a private Vehicle.

Such a situation is the same as in the other countries, only the top of the

pyramid has a private vehicle.

“Next is the location of the continent.”

Horun sorted the five maps by their relative location of the continent.

“In the Middle is Kaer Huode, in the east is Sai Fuxi Ke. In the southwest of Kaer Huode is the Island Lielie. Located in the east of the Island and south of Kaer Huode is Aisen Biya. In the North of Kaer Huode is Henie Xinge.”

Among the continents Kaer Huode is the largest while Henie Xinge is the smallest if one don’t include Lielie Island.

If one have to ask which continents are the most unique, then it would be Henie Xinge and Aisen Biya.

Henie Xinge’s northwest part was covered by ice all year, while the other places has harsh winter.

Aisen Biya´s southwestern part of the continent is a desert which is about a quarter of the continent, but it has at the same time the largest forest and lakes in the world.

“We are now in Sai Fuxie Ke. This is also the most of the human race lives.”

“Human Race? Does that mean that other Races also exist?”

“Yes, that’s right. There are Elves, Dwarves, Goblins, fairies, Beastmen, Demons, and Mingzu. Next to them there are some minor tribes.”

“Goblins are also fairies? I thought that they belonged to the categories of monsters. And in my world monsters are the sinister beings.”

(TL: Mingzu something similar to Zombie, Ghoul, etc.)

In Games and Mangas Goblins are always the villains, but Kosuke didn’t knew if that was the same in this world.

“Are Goblin in your world Monsters? Here by us Goblins are the same as us Humans and are be considered as race. Although there are Goblins which are monsters, but it is only after they lost their senses and then be known as monsters. Not just Goblin, if other races became like that they would also be treated as monsters. As for the demons, although there are some wicked

members, but it doesn’t mean that the whole race is evil. Also Demons are a magic race.”

Although Demons were that proud that it was already disgusting, but they don’t have the desire for world domination.

“I see. But what is Mingzu I can’t imagine it?”

“Mingzu is also called the dead race, its referring to people who resurrected after dead.”

“The Living Dead?”

Kosuke was imagine corpses and skeletons living together as a picture, but that wasn’t the case.

“One cannot say in front of the Mingzu that they are The Living Dead. The Living Dead is a kind of Monster, so for the Mingzu it is a great insult. So you need to look out for what you are saying, otherwise they will attack without warning.”

Horun put straight her index finger, and looked serious.

Kosuke nodded to show that he understood it.

“I will keep it in mind. In this life I still have not fought anyone.”

”Keeping that in mind won’t hurt you. In fact, they are just like us, as long you respect them they will respect you, so it doesn’t matter if you become very nervous.”

“Is there still something which one has to look out about the races?”

The demon race always carries a Soul Gem is which personalized and exclusive to them, it is not allowed to touch them.

Beastmen and per talent transformed Beastmen cannot be confused with each other and so on, Horun pointed out what one needed to pay attention to the race specific matters.

A Soul Gem is a treasure which is born with the demon, it is not only a part of them, it is also their strength and weakness.

Beastmens are humans with beast faces, transformed has only the ears and

tail growing through their talent, but the faces won't have many changes, in order to completely change they have to use their talent.

The people of the Mingzu race always use perfume to cover their body odor, so they are easy to recognize.

After finishing talking about that, the topic about races came to an end.

"The next thing we are going to talk about is money."

Horun put the money which she lent from Alice on the table.

The coins which were put out on the table were four square formed coins of the same size.

From left to right were the gold and silver ones which Kosuke see.

But the one at the most right he couldn't recognize.

Horun points at the rightmost money.

"This is one Erte. It´s the most worthless one called stone coin.

20 Erte is equal to one copper Coin.

20 copper coins can be changed to one silver coin and 30 silver coins can be exchanged for one gold coin and 10 gold coins can be exchanged for one Flash-Coin.

Because Alice does not have a Flash-Coin so she can't show it to you.

The outward of a Flash-Coin looks like a mix of green and is a bit larger than the other coins.

The most commonly used ones for daily life are Stone, Copper and Silver Coins.

Gold Coins are mostly used for big purchases.

Generally civilians have almost no chance to see a Flash-Coin, one can say only if one is in a certain situation like one wants to open a shop then it is the only chance to use it."

Some of the civilians property are in the worth of a Flash-Coin, but these persons often chose to have them in expensive antiques or precious gems, or save up the money to the worth of a Flash-Coin and only very few people have a

Flash-Coin.

“Is the material of the Stone Coin, stone?”

Kosuke picked up the Stone Coin looked, and it felt like stone.

Horun nodded.

Stone money, pronounced as [s ekik a].

In Kosuke’s brain/head, [s ekik a] has been translated into the Kanji for Stone Coins.

“Stone is none of the materials. Also it is mixed with a special ore.”

In addition there is a small amount of a synthetic metal added, but that was beyond Horun´s knowledge.

It was added to determine if the money is genuine or false.

This kind of metal was designed to react to magic to show if it is genuine or false, the Coins beside the Stone Coin also have that added.

But in order to prevent forgery, the excitement of that is only known to those who are involved in the production.

So that Horun doesn’t know that, no wonder.

The Coins which is most common on the marked are Silver and Gold Coins.

Because, compared to the same amount of Gold and Silver, it has more value.

So many people tried to forge the Coins.

“How much would a meal for one person probably cost?”

Because he was not able to grasp the value of a Flash-Coin, in order to catch the concept, Kosuke asked that question.

“That… if you are not wasteful about 10 Erte.”

“In a four family daily meal cost would be 6 copper coins, one month 9 silver coins. How much is the living expense of a four family house for a month? About the general average income.”

“Uh… about 20 Silver with taxes or so? I guess.”

Horun personally only have a little chance to use money, so she doesn't know the concept of general revenue.

Because normally she doesn't have to pay for the bills, since the servants would take care of the payment, so she doesn't know about it is taken for granted.

"… A Flash-Coin can cover the living expense for 1 year and 3 months? Than that is really much money."

After calculating it fast Kosuke nodded.

"You can arithmetic. And so fast."

"Is that really praise worthy?"

That being said, Kosuke was also surprised how fast his brain was able to do that.

Thinking that it could also be an effect of the title, he couldn't help but to feel admiration.

"In your world, can everyone do arithmetic like you just now?"

"In my country it's basically like that. It depends on the individual levels, usually when on is 10 years old one can do that. The country arranged that one form 7 to 16 years on have to attend school. After that if one wants to continue it is their own freedom. But the majority will choose to continue."

"Your country is great that they promote learning."

"It… can be said like that. However, what they teach in school is not always useful. At school you learn things which you don't know when it will become useful and after graduation the knowledge is often not useful, I heard that is also very common."

Taking Kosuke as example, math, science and other subjects are also only learnt for the exams only.

"… Yesterday, after I listened to you, I felt that you lived in a very peaceful and prosperous country. That the country also teach knowledge which is not necessary for life, one can feel that your country wants to cultivate the variety of the citizen. In our case, at the age of 12, one is already considered as a member

of the labor force. In order to promote the national development, people have been sent early into the labor force rather than to education."

Seeing Horun's expression, Kosuke deeply felt that his faraway home is actually a good place.

When living in Japan everything was taken for granted, so we are fortunate.

Even if one was talking in the classroom that there is a war in a foreign country, one doesn't feel anything.

But after coming here, not to mention how easy living is, Kosuke can understand lightly how the quiet daily life is, enough to let the people here feel envious.

Since moving from one town to another, there are always a possibility that they are going to be attacked by monsters or thieves, unlike in Japan which is not troubled by that, can make others envy which is quite normal.

"Now that's all about the Currency. Next, I will teach you how to greet then we will take a break. Greeting is not hard, you will remember it soon."

After Horun said that, she stood up since she intended to demonstrate it.

"If you run into acquaintances or just passing someone, you just have to say your greeting. Formal greeting is done this, you put one hand at your abdomen and bow. If it's a person with nobility or even a higher status, you have to put your right hand before your heart and then bow."

Horun´s demonstration let Kosuke be perplexed.

Perhaps it was because of the childhood education of her family, Horun´s movement looked elegant, and that's amazing.

"Does that kind of movement have a meaning?"

"Putting your right hand before you heart does have a meaning. But I don't know if putting your hand before your abdomen has a meaning. For most of the living creatures, the heart is the key of their life.

So putting your hand before your heart means [you have my heart], [without you I can't live]."

“It feels like it is used for proposing.”

“That’s right, it seems like there are some who use it for proposing. It’s almost noon, we can still talk about a certain topic that you might want to ask about?”

Kosuke thought for a moment, then he felt that he has a question about the religion.

Even on earth where the existence of God is not sure, religion is that prevalent.

Than in this world where God exist, doesn’t the religion has a very large influence?

“I’m curious how religion is in this world?”

“what do you mean that?”

Asked Horun which didn´t understand Kosuke´s question.

“Religion is quite popular in my world, so that they can even interfere with state affairs. There are also some which will attack people with other faiths. In our world in which God exist is already like that, so your world must be even more extreme?”

“Hm, do you mean the religion holds a very powerful influence?”

Horun wondered, since she was unable to understand Kosuke´s meaning.

Seeing Horun´s reaction, Kosuke tilt his head to the side.

Could it be that this world is not like that?

“You have a concept of faith to your God, right? Since I had seen that you pray to God before having a meal.”

“Yes there is faith. But it does not reject others or interfere in state affairs.”

From Horun´s attitude, showed that the existence of the religion of the earth and here is not the same.

Unlike on Earth, the church in this world doesn’t have the power to represent God.

The people are just worshiping the God only.

The Gods doesn’t have interest in the people worshiping them, nor will help

them.

Even with the custom of going to church, one will not receive blessing or forgiveness of God.

On Earth, religion is a powerful tool for those who can take advantage of it.

But the religion in this world doesn't have this benefit.

The people of authority won't have interest in an objective which won't benefit them, so the church and those with power won't cooperate.

To Kosuke´s surprise, even though God exist it doesn't cause some additional effects.

Because people knows that even if they have faith it doesn't have any benefit.

While they show gratitude to the Gods which maintaining the world, but they won't always show high degree of respect.

The Gods won't ask for the people to believe in them.

In this kind of environment, the power of the church is naturally not great.

The Church is just a place to show the gratitude of the people to God.

The other uses are for holding weddings, ceremonies, and as an orphanage.

Although if people have a small problem they can also come for counseling or confessions, however this is only an individual activity of the priests and nuns, which has nothing to do with the duties of the church.

At the time of marriage, the church is asking the Gods of this world to witness the vow of the couple; at the time of a funeral, the church is sending the deceased back to the side of God.

The main source of income comes from the ceremony fees of the church, and the donation of the believers to the priests and nuns.

The identity of the priests and nuns are not the servants of God, but more like hosts who organize the various activities at the church.

But they all have gratitude to the Gods, this is without doubt.

After today's Tuition ended, Horun went to the kitchen to prepare lunch.

Kosuke also came to help put.

The lunch was the same breakfast, it was only reheating the soup, then taking the bread, cheese and fruits to the table.

Horun can only simply coordinate it.

Knowing that Alice already prepared things in advantage, because she still could not feel assured letting her cook alone.

Alice knows Horun´s culinary degree, because she is her cooking teacher.

Before meeting Alice, Horun didn't know how to cook, because there was naturally someone who would make food for her.

After Alice found out about that she thought that one still need to know how to prepare a little, so she slowly taught her how to make some simple dishes.

Horun herself did have a sense for taste and wasn't clumsy, so she slowly managed that.

"I´m full."

Kosuke put together his hands, Horun cleaned up the plates from the table.

After putting the dirty plates into the water, Kosuke was responsible to clean them, while Horun dried them and put them back.

After the Lunch was cleared up and they rested slightly, Horun told Kosuke Alice's instructions.

The instruction was chopping wood.

"Chopping wood?"

"You didn't chopped wood before?"

Because in Kosukes world there is no need for such a thing like firewood, Horun asked if he needed an explanation.

"Oh, so I should chop the wood for the stove to use?"

"Yes, that's right."

Kosuke only showed a dissatisfied expression, because he thought that Alice is someone who is having the concept that someone who doesn't work don't eat.

But that was wrong.

Alice hoped that he can actually feel the change in his physical abilities, that's why she did that.

As long one move his body one can easily feel how much he was strengthened.

And at the same time the firewood is chopped.

That was Alice`s plan.

Kosuke followed Horun out of the back door of the kitchen, went to a small warehouse.

Where a big knife, saw and logs leaning against the wall.

The length of the wood was about one meter, the circumference was about 50 centimeters big.

Also several times bigger that Kosuke´s arm.

Perhaps the reason why the knife, saws and wood were covered in a thin layer of dust, was because it was neglected for a long time.

"Alice said that the length of the wood should not be longer than 30 centimeters. Each piece of wood should have about an eighth of the original size. There is no need to hurry, you can do it slowly."

"Understood. It's alright when I put the chopped firewood in this warehouse."

"Yes. I will return to the house now. Ah, the interpretations magic effect is going to end soon, do you have something you have to ask?"

Horun who was going the house turned around and asked.

Kosuke thought for a moment and shook his head.

"Ok", said Horun and returned to the house.

"First I should cut the wood. If I cut it into 4 pieces, then each part will not be longer than 30 centimeter."

Kosuke took one piece of wood out of the warehouse.

Just with that he felt that his strength really increased.

Since lifting the wood was done completely effortless.

“…since it is that easy, there should be no problem taking more in one go.”

Taking 4 pieces of wood together let one had it hard to move ones hands and foots, but there was still capacity to cope.

Looking around there was no workbench nearby to use, for convenience, Kosuke put down 3 pieces of wood on the ground, then put the other piece on them.

After sawing for 15 minutes.

“Fuu.”

Kosuke wiped his sweat less forehead, and exchanged his saw for an knife.

“At first I should chop a notch out first, then chop it apart, right?”

The scene which he has seen before in TV emerged in his mind clearly.

The things which he has seen and heard before, can be recalled quite fast now, this is probably also an effect of the Title Dragonslayer.

Using the knife to cut a gap at the edge of the wood, then chop it down.

The wood was split into two pieces in one go.

As if he was using quite a strength with the knife, it only stopped after reaching the ground.

That the knife stopped has nothing to do with the ground, but it was thanks to Kosuke’s self-control.

If he didn’t stopped, even the ground would have been split in half.

“… I can´t feel the resistance of the ground.”

Kosuke was scared by his own strength. And had cold sweat run down his back.

“This is also the result of the increase of “stats”? If I used it without thought then it would been quite bad.”

Alice achieved her purpose, Kosuke could feel the strengthening of his abilities.

Kosuke while muttered to remind himself to relax while hacking firewood, after he cut five pieces he stopped. He noticed that even if he doesn’t chop a notch into the wood, he can still split it directly.

“Oh.”

This one was cut a bit off.

“How about this way?”

After Kosuke amended the movement of the knife, he chopped again.

This time he chopped the wood into two pieces which varied from each other.

“Hm? Should it been done like this?”

After the second adjustment Kosuke chopped again.

After finally seeing a result with which he could be satisfied, Kosuke couldn’t help but to put his fist up.

After having the first successful feeling, the next pieces were all chopped into the right size.

After the first 4 pieces of wood which he took out were chopped after the instruction, Kosuke suddenly had a playful thought.

Maybe he can now cut the wood in the air after he thrown it.

“Heyho.”

Kosuke thrown the wood in the air, and hacked while it fell down.

The result was a failure.

He gripped it wrong, so it got struck in the wood.

And it left a vertical cut marks in the wood.

He pulled it out and tried it again.

This time he successfully split it into two.

But the position of the cut was still off.

“Certainly it is not easy. I can’t learn that from that series and that manga.”

Kosuke refused to give up and continued to try, after an hour, his success rate was raised up to 100%.

So it provoked himself to challenge even harder moves which came to his mind.

After 4 hour went by, thinking that it should been done Horun came out to take a look, what she saw was Kosuke who thrown the wood into air and cut it into four pieces, while having fun.

“Kosuke?”

“Mh? Is something? Horun?”

“Ghmrejppk,p,m.”

Because the interpretation magic went off, Kosuke couldn’t understand what Horun said.

But from her reaction he could see that she was surprised.

He told her with hand signs about the language barrier, Horun calmed down, and asked him to return into the house.

Kosuke determined thought Horun’s expression that he already cut enough firewood, which he can call it a day and return into the house.

After the two of them picked up the firewood and cleaned up, they returned to the house and waited for Alice return.

One could see that the house has go through a certain degree of cleaning.

While Kosuke was busy chopping firewood, Horun wasn’t lazy and cleaned the house.

But it wasn’t completely tidy. Because like with cooking, in the past there was always someone responsible for cleaning Horun`s room.

At most Horun just put back the mess back to their original place, and then sweep the floor.

As for the things which she didn’t know where to put where put into a corner of the room so that it won’t obstruct her.

When Alice returned home it was already past 5 in the afternoon. Just for the trip she already needed nearly 9 hours.

When she came back, she used transmission magic, but when she departed she almost used up her magic, so she had to use magic supplement medicine to restore her magic.

After finding out that the interpretation magic wore off she re-casted it, which let her magic reserve went out.

Then Alice lie worn out on the table.

“I’m so exhausted. I haven’t used that much magic for a long time.”

“Thanks for your hard work. Did you found the corpse of the dragon?”

“Hm. It certainly died. After seeing that dreadful monster died in such a stupid way, my depression in my heart is finally swept away, such a great thing.”

Alice laughed delightedly. It seemed like that she really hated that dragon.

“I will visit the Kosuberu family tomorrow. And today you can write the letter.”

“Understood.” “Kosuke, how far did you progress with the firewood?”

“The wood which was next to the wall were all chopped into firewood.”

“Is that so? No, do you believe that your own physical abilities were strengthened?”

“At the beginning I was surprised, but there was certain confirmation. My physical abilities were strengthen a lot, compared to my previous self it is like I am another person.”

“I think so, too.” “When I went out to see the situation, he was performing a trick where he threw the wood into the air and quartered it. It was the first time I saw someone chopping firewood like that.”

“Oh.”

“I was just practicing it out of curiosity, as result I understood the trick. I was also surprised. The blessing which the Title of Dragonslayer is really exaggerated.”

If one didn’t need to cut it into the same size, then even cutting it into six parts in the air wouldn’t be impossible.

Once one learned that trick, that work even became interesting.

“Indeed. Even if the numeric value is the same, if it lacks the revision of the movement, one wouldn’t know how long one need to exercise. However, in a situation like yours, then you should be able to learn magic quite quickly.”

“You’re willing to teach me magic? That’s great!”

This is the most exciting moment for Kosuke after coming to this world.

He danced with joy, so that he almost got dizzy.

Because most of the people would like to learn magic a indescribable kind of power.

In stories the miracles which magicians called forth are always exciting.

Kosuke also was someone who belonged to that kind of person which is fantasizing about magic.

“I think always relying on me for the interpreting magic is not very convenient, right? So I have to teach you how to use it. After we had dinner, I will start teach you from the basics. Interpreting magic is not a very difficult magic to learn, it shouldn’t take long time to learn it.”

“I´m troubling you then to teach me!”

Is there a need to be that happy for that?

At the same time, I thought that.

Later Alice said she want to take a nap, sitting on a rocking chair and closed her eyes.

After using up her magic, she should be dead tired.

Before long she began snoring lightly.

“Horun how great is your knowledge of magic?”

“Me? Beside the magic in which I´m specialized not so great…”

Horun can only use healing and the minority of auxiliary magic.

From the auxiliary, she learned how to enchant her strength, in order to suppress patients when they go mad of pain or to help stabilize the patient’s body.

This is a magic which can be applied for treatment.

She has never come into contact with attack magic.

Usually there was always a guard by her to protect her, so naturally there was

no need to learn it.

“On the way here, the light which you called out was also magic, right?”

“Yes, that was light magic.”

“When I saw it for the first time I was really surprised. At that time I still thought that I was on Earth, so I really thought that there is really a magician on Earth living somewhere in a place unknown to everyone.”

“That magic is something that everyone can use, so it is nothing surprising.”

“In the eyes of a person who comes from a world without magic, if suddenly a light lit up, it would be hard not being surprised.”

“Really?”

Form the inhabitants of Earth it is granted that there is no magic, likewise, for the inhabitants of this world magic is something common as breathing.

Just like the life on Earth is normally for Kosuke, Horun doesn’t think that magic is something special.

So she doesn’t understand why Kosuke is making such a fuss about that.

After one hour Alice woke up, and went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Kosuke and Horun also helped. But they could only help with cutting and cleaning the vegetable.

After entering the stage of cooking both of them were sent back to the table.

Because Alice only wanted to make something simple to fill their stomachs, so it was not necessary for so many helpers.

After the dinner was eaten and cleaned up, Alice prepared tea and began with Kosuke’s magic lesson.

“Magic is like a speaking your wishes to the world and having the world helping you to achieve it kind of technique. The things which can be done with magic is too numerous to mention. The phenomenon which is caused by magic is a kind of miracle. From the perspective of the world, magic is an unnatural strength. So while using magic one must follow up to a certain degree of procedure. When the magic is recognized as a natural phenomenon, no matter how powerful

everyone can use magic, without paying any prices. The so called procedure, it can be making a petition to the world, or some kind of action, or use a magic circle, it can also be a long ceremony which include every action named before."

These concepts were just like how one imagined magic on Earth, noticed Kosuke who had a common thought, it's seems like the imagination of earthlings cannot be underestimated.

Maybe a long time before in the past earthlings really could use magic – such a speculation flashed in his mind.

"Following those procedures, presenting offerings, then petitioning to the world. I want to trigger that phenomenon is that ok, or so. If the world think that the procedure is done correctly, the offering are ample, then it will agree to the phenomenon which you want to cause, and the magic will activate. The procedure of using magic is just like that. The so-called offerings is magic-power (MP). Up to the situation there is also minerals or some kind of herbs needed. Do you have any questions?"

Kosuke repeated the information which he just received.

"So the one who is activating the magic are not ourselves but the world?"

"That's right. We are only asking the world to fulfill our wish and to perform that phenomenon. In addition, a talent is similar to magic effects but is activated by the user themselves. Also the medium which both of them consume is not the same. Magic consume magic-power (MP), a talent stamina."

"Then the effect of Dragonslayer title, won't it just continuously consume my stamina?"

"No, it is not like that. The ability which has permanent effects has basically up to nearly no consumption. For example, my Magic Fusion and Horun's Heal consume stamina. Since it is always actively consume of stamina is normal, so there is no problem with the exhaustion of your stamina. The monstrous effect of it is that the strength going up a lv, if the talent is growing, then the effect can become even stronger. That way we can we can lower the consumption of stamina and becoming stronger. But it is counted as a special case."

"I see."

“Do you have other questions?”

“In order to use magic one only need to use magic power and not making a mistake with the procedure, does it not matter to anyone who doesn’t have talent? If we put aside the talent, then everyone no matter who use magic there won’t be a great difference? People with different magic power using the same magic will have the same effect?”

Alice nodded to Kosuke’s question.

“Your thought is right. It is independent to the amount of magic power, affecting it is only the type and frequency of the usage of the magic. The peoples which have less magic power even if they learned how to use magic can’t use magic which needs more magic power (than they have), no matter how desperate they are. But there are still people which refuse to give up, after repeated experiments one found how to break that limit. The method is storing up one magic power in a magic tool and release it when one need it for the magic. Another method is assembling many peoples and launch a complex magic ritual. Magic tools are generally, relics of the past, for secret technique of a group of the demon race. If one has no ability, then it is impossible to get any of them.”

If one want a relic then one need to find it in a ruin, or buy it for a high price.

Those secret technique won’t be taught to outsiders.

If one knows those secrets one’s life would be in danger.

“Where does the magic power which was offered to the world goes?”

Asking this question is only out of curiosity, even if one didn’t knew it one can still use magic.

“Those magic powers are all used for correcting strange phenomena. Although we can’t feel it, but that is what God said.”

But the correction can completely stop the strange phenomena from happening, only reduce the frequency of occurrence.

“Are there any other questions?” asked Alice, Kousuke shook his head.

“Then I will continue with it. Magic is divided into formless and formed magic

in those two types, generally the one used is the formed magic. The magics which are published are also formed magic. Do you still remember that magic is a phenomenon? The so-called formed magic, is letting people believe that those phenomena are normal, letting the activation of magic becoming easier. For formed magic one need only petition the world, making moves, using a magic wand one can easily activate it. Because it is easy, so one can´t expect some great effects. Incidentally, there are different formed magic of various races elves, beastmen, those magics all have different techniques, but in the essence they are all the same. Only the way of usage is different."

After talking till now Alice drank a slip and took a breath, then she continued to explain.

"Formless Magic is often used for enormous magics. For the procedure there is only the ceremony. Formless magic effect has a gigantic phenomenon, so it is not the same as formed magic and can't be hidden from the world. So it is necessary to take time to use it. In addition, when there is a development of a new magic, even if it is a simple magic, at the start it will be classified as formless magic. When it is publicized, and the magic went thought the certification, it will be recorded into the magic book as formed magic. That is about all the basic knowledge."

After the procedure is registered into the magic book, it is a certificated magic.

The magic book is in itself a magic tool, so it has such an effect.

"Can one skip the procedure, without a petition, action or magic wand and use magic?"

Kosuke remembered techniques out of mangas and novels which he had read.

"Impossible. Such a research is already going on since the ancient times, but not one person has found the answer."

"Is it that there was a grain of hope or was unproductive from the start till the end?"

"The latter."

Alice didn't hesitate to answer.

It was also granted that there is no result.

As Alice previously said, a magic phenomenon is caused by the world.

A living creature can only petition the world.

Using magic while skipping the procedure, is like a living creature doing the same as what the world does with their own power.

If it is a success, then it would mean that the world and living creatures are equivalent which would be a strange equation.

Such a thing would be more serious than the presence of magic.

Even hoping to activate magic that way is only to solve a trivial matter, but if one does not follow the procedure, it won't be effective.

For example, one can create a breeze with magic.

But as long as there is fan at hand, everyone can easily create a breeze.

Even if it is such an easy act, if one wants to activate magic, one needs to follow the procedure.

In the past researcher thought, such a simple thing, even if one skip the procedure one should be able to activate the magic and conducted experiments.

They thought that it would only take a month of research, but it lasted for forty years and it is still not over.

Later the researcher died, and the research stopped because there wasn't an accomplishment.

Since then, there was no one who would command researchers to research a method to skip the procedure.

Also there was now almost no one who would select that as a research topic.

At most there are some confident researcher which appeared and tried to challenge it, as result they always receive a crushing defeat.

"In the past those researcher wasted that much time and didn't get a result, do you still think there's a way to skip the procedure?"

"Impossible."

Kosuke nodded meaning that he understood that.

Alice also nodded.

“What remain is what one must be careful about when one use magic, that will be all for today. To use magic one need measure the usage of magic power. To use magic, one must release enough magic power. That’s the key. It´s sounds like it is something naturally, but the most of the people can’t do it.”

“Is it not just simple following the procedure and one is able to use it?”

“As for the meaning of using the magic power, the user must be able to release their magic power on their own. Reducing their own magic power, doesn’t mean that the world is sucking it from the user? From the position of the world, even if the magic doesn’t activate their will be no loss. Wanting the world to activate the magic and wanting it to draw out the magic power on their own, do you think it would bother to do something like that?”

The so-called phenomenon, is like poisoning.

It is not like the world like to trigger that phenomenon.

The reason why God don’t prohibit the humans to use magic, perhaps is because magic is already too close to the human lifestyle, so that it is impossible to stop them.

“I see.”

“Returning to the topic, why is the necessary amount of magic power which is offered the focus? It´s goes without saying, that with not enough magic power one cannot use magic. And the already offered magic power will be wasted. On the other hand, if the offered magic power is more than the required amount, then the magic will still activate. But the effect will still not change. In this case, the amount of magic power which was offered to much is also wasted. The amount of magic power which is offered should be about the needed amount. You need to keep that in mind.”

“Understood.”

“According to your ability to learn, as long as you exercise enough there won’t be a problem. Next, is the actual practice.”

“I’m looking forward for it since a while!”

The thought on finally using magic, Kosuke got excited again.

“But that is just magic, is there anything that is worth to look forward?”

“It seems like he has some expectation toward magic.”

Replied Horun who looked away from her book.

“Expectation… I really don’t understand.”

For Alice magic is just the norm.

So there is no wonder that she didn’t understand him, when Kosuke found out that what shouldn’t exist appeared before him, and even have the chance to learn it so he was actually very excited.

“Forget it. Then just let’s practice.”

“I’m looking forward to learn from you. I want to learn the magic for flying (in the sky).”

Kosuke looked with sparkling eyes at Alice.

Actually the number of people dream of being able to soar into the sky, is not small.

Kosuke is one of them, he is really looking forward to fulfill that dream.

“To challenge flying from the start is to difficult, you will first learn the basics. First to warm up we use simple magic. 『Oh Light, appear please!』”

Yelled Alice while swinging her arms, then countless light particles appeared before Alice.

It was the same magic which Horun used when they were staying in the field overnight.

“Just like me one chanting the spell and offering you magic power. You try it.”

Kosuke who couldn’t wait to try was stunned.

“… How do I offer magic power?”

“You don’t know?”

Alice was stumped.

Suddenly wanting her to explain it, she didn't know how to explain it.

For the inhabitants of this world, offering magic power is naturally like breathing.

After being born one can already do that. So being asked how to offer it confused her.

"Hm… it is a little difficult to explain it with words. How should I say it, it feels like… like pushing something out of your body?"

Alice looked troubled to Horun.

"Even if you look at me, I don't know what to do. I´m not an expert in that area, I just use it for convenience only, as for what kind of mechanisms is needed to activate that, I haven't even thought about that."

"Most people won't think about that. I didn't expect to run so soon into a problem, I didn't expect to get stuck so fast."

Before when they investigated Kosuke with the metal plate they identified that Kosuke had magic power.

So they both naturally thought that he can use magic.

Alice and Horun both didn't expect, that they would be already be frustrated at this stage.

"In the end, you should try to read out the spell first?"

"『Oh Light, appear please』?"

Kosuke imitated Alice movement swinging his arm, there was no response as result.

Alice and Horun exposed an expression as they had headache.

Kosuke thought that he can't use magic, and he became depressed.

"I can only rely on myself and attempt it multiple times."

"Come on. We will also help you thinking about a way to help you."

Kosuke nodded and assented, and quietly repeated the spell.

He tried a variety of methods, like continuous chanting and concentration his strength in his hands, but sadly there was no response.

He tilt his head to the side and pondered about where he it went wrong.

That day, Kosuke repeated that and spent a lot of time, till he went to bed.

The next day, as soon Kosuke got time he would try to chant the spell, but the result was the same.

And the result of the next day was also the same.

Alice and Horun also sometimes tried to encourage, comfort, criticize, scold or threat, but did their best to help him.

Although when Alice criticized others while pointing their nose and told him where he did wrong, Horun also entered those scene and scolded, but Kosuke thought that those reactions were only acting.

That day evening, Kosuke was happy about his success, but woke up though that surprise and found out that it was only a dream, and he felt depressed again.

Such an embarrassing dream let him suffer twice as much.

“What should we do?”

“Yes, what.”

They both looked at Kosuke who feebly laid on the table while discussing.

Form the way he looked if one would describe it with a manga, it would be like when hot air is coming out of his head.

“His magic power is between humans first class. This is the truth, the question is why he can’t use it. Looking in the books also can’t find a similar case. I thought that the title Dragonslayer has a correction effect, did I judge wrong? But when you chopped the firewood it did activate.”

“If we look at that this way…”

Alice thought for a moment and then said:

“Perhaps it would be better if he give up learning magic is better. Anyway, even if he doesn’t have magic, he is still incredibly strong.”

“But he was so looking forward to it, if it is possible, then I want to help him to learn it. He has magic power, and didn’t mispronounced the spell. Activating the magic needs to offer magic power, he can’t use it, which means the world didn’t receive the magic power…”

Horun reconfirmed one after another of the steps which are necessary to use magic. Then she found out a possibility.

“Could it be…?”

“Do you have an idea?”

Horun was not certain but said out what she found out.

“I thought that, he did not petition to the world.”

“But didn’t I said at the start. That magic is a technique where one has to petition to the world.”

“This place is for Kosuke a foreign world, the world in his heart could it be his own world? So even if he petition, the world he is thinking of is another world, and not this one.”

“Mh… This conclusion does made sense. Ok, I will tell him that, and tell him to try again.”

Alice knocked Kosuke`s head while calling him to wake up.

Perhaps though there was no progress with the practicing of magic he lost his patience, Kosuke´s movement were slow.

“Horun thought about a very persuasive hypothesis. If her hypothesis is right,

then magic should not be very hard for you. Listen carefully.”

“I will listen.”

“You are right now here. Do you understand that?”

Alice tapped with her index finger on the table. Kosuke nodded.

“So, your world is this one now. Not the one where you lived before, it is this land right now. So when you pray then you need to pray to this world so it would only make sense, right? Listen carefully. You’re living on this land now. You need to thanks this world, and pray to this world. You only need to do that then you can use magic.”

As if being awoken from a dream, Kosuke just noticed that the home in his heart was the Earth.

Even though after coming to this world has already been over a week, also he is a little bit accustomed to the life here now, but in his heart he still set on earth.

Kosuke concentrated, on one side he wants to speak with this world, he prepared to chant.

At the same time, he felt that something in his body wriggling, then he let out what he could let out altogether.

“『Oh Light, appear please』.”

The magic phenomena which Horun and Alice used before, also appeared before Kosuke.

“Success! I did it!”

“Congratulation!”

Kosuke and Horun where jumping hand in hand in joy.

Alice mumbled, “Finally succeeded”, and then sat down on a chair.

“Ok, ok, how long do you want to be happy, come sit down.”

“How can I not be happy! I finally, finally learned magic!”

“Noisy.”

Alice literally poured a pot of water at Kosuke and forced him to sit down on the chair.

“First of all I will say congratulation.”

Then she reached out to stop Kosuke who was smiling brilliantly, continued with.

“But you released too much magic power.”

“Because I don’t know how much I needed to release, so I released as much as I could.”

“Even so, releasing 90% in one go is too much.”

(TL: Kosuke you have overdone it -.-’)

“Basically how much should be released?”

“Well… with your magic power, then not even one percent of your magic power. You just need that little bit to use it.”

“Really, is that enough?”

Anyways, one percent is quite exaggeration, Kosuke was surprised.

“I said before that it is easy magic. Even a three years old child can use it. Because it is easy the needed amount of magic power is small. Today you will continue practicing Light magic. Actually I wanted to teach you another magic, but with your magic power right now it will be hard.”

“Right, will I recover my whole magic power if I sleep overnight?”

“Sleeping for one night will only recover about half of your magic power.”

After Kosuke said that he understood that he started practicing the magic again.

He reduced the amount, and only released a bit of magic power.

But it may be that he released too less, the light did not appear.

He slightly lift the amount of magic power and tried it again, this time he succeeded.

“It seems like I’m still useless.”

Then he casted the spell five times, only drawing out the needed magic power.

Later Kosuke tried out a variety of usage, such as changing the spell and seeing what kind of effect it has, and so a day had passed.

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Chapter 05

TL: Hajiko

Editor: Xant , KL

It had been two days since he learned magic.

In this period, Kosuke also learned other magics.

His ability to memorize things was better now compared to the past, so he absorbed the information quickly.

Though he really only learned simple magic.

Alice had sent the letter to the Kosuberu family on a rainy day.

They should be sending an investigation team to the mountains within the next few days to search for the dragon’s corpse.

Kosuke’s current objective was to learn interpretation magic until he could use it with ease, as well as the other simple magics.

He was studying healing and basic household magics.

Alice and Horun oversaw his learning. In the beginning, he felt that the magic for making a fried egg was really boring, but he eventually recognized the importance of that magic and began learning earnestly.

The magic in question didn’t require any fire, one just needed to prepare a dish with eggs on it.

This was important for people who were adventuring or who were in trouble.

Horun was teaching him healing magic since it’s her forte.

Alice had decided to teach him the household magics mainly to have someone else split the workload with her.

The only way to learn all of this was to go slowly and methodically.

Alice had the impression that Kosuke had never cooked before, that's why she had taught him the fried egg magic. (ED: University life 101, eggs all day)

Kosuke actually had some knowledge of how to cook, he just needed a recipe to follow.

He could make satisfactory dishes at most.

The actual preparation for cooking wasn't complicated.

Since the correction effect of his «Dragonslayer» title was in effect, as long as he practiced he would rapidly become better.

"This time I'll teach you magic for washing cloth."

"Oh, okay."

Kosuke followed Alice to the courtyard.

Next to them was a basket with clothes and a washtub.

Kosuke noticed the lack of a cleaning agent.

Could it be they never developed one?

Or that they didn't need it?

He still wasn't clear about that.

Horun was sitting next to the window, listening to the sounds coming from outside while reading a book.

"First put the water into the washtub followed by the clothes."

Kosuke put the clothes, socks and underwear into the basin.

"Mh?"

"Is something wrong?"

"Why is your underwear mixed in? Please separate them!" (TL: Is that not something that a girl should say Kosuke?)(ED: U wot m8)

Clearly seeing the female underwear, Kosuke couldn't help but blush in shame.

"No need to freak out, at my age there's nothing to be shy about."

"What are you talking about? You look like you're 20 years old."

“I’m 70 years old this year.” (TL: What!! O.O)(ED: …)

Kosuke stared at Alice.

Her skin’s natural elasticity and glossy sheen, body stature, and her hair, no matter how you sliced it she looked around 20 years old.

Even when she was being stared at from head to toe, she never went a shade of red.

It seems she really didn’t have a sense of shame anymore.

“It’s because I’m from a race that lives a long time.”

“That’s really something you’d only hear about in another world…ok, I understand your mentality on this matter. Even so, why is Horun’s underwear mixed in here with mine as well?”

“Mine? I didn’t know you were washing today. Besides, I don’t know how to wash the clothes myself so I don’t complain if someone else does it for me. However, having my underwear stared at is a bit…”

Horun’s cheeks became slightly crimson as she looked away.

“I’ll be careful,” answered Kosuke before he regained his composure and faced Alice.

“You ready then? All right, let’s continue. Chant the spell『Squash squash get washed』, point your finger at the clothes and basin, and rotate the finger clockwise. It requires about 13 times the MP that Light magic does.” (TL: Will call illumination magic now Light magic)(ED: ohgod that chant)

“『Squash squash get washed』.” (ED: LOL)

Following Alice’s command, Kosuke used the washing magic.

The clothes in the basin floated into the air and stopped about 50 centimeters above the ground and began to spin.

The spinning direction changed from clockwise to counterclockwise, and the clothes were compressed into a ball.

In the eyes of Kosuke, this scene felt just like a magic version of a washing machine.

“If there’s any stubborn dirt or stains, just use soil release or decontamination magic.”

“How does that one go?”

“You just point straight at the laundry and cast『Dirt be gone』. It requires about 8 times the MP of Light magic.”

Kosuke tried to use this magic.

A ray of smoke got mixed into the ball of water.

“Now we wait until it stops rotating. It takes about 30 minutes. The rotation speed will slowly decrease and the water will return into the basin.”

“So there’s 30 minutes of free time? What should I do? Also, do I need to stare at it while it’s rotating?”

“Don’t worry.”

“It still feels very troublesome. I thought that it would all get cleaned immediately.”

“That kind of magic does exist, but it doesn’t work well with lots of laundry.”

“So there really is a convenient magic like that.”

As Kosuke turned around and started to return to the house, he noticed a shadow belonging to a person hiding at the corner of the house.

The owner of the shadow stepped out into view.

He has short blue hair and black eyes, and his face gave off an honest air.

He was about 1.8m tall. (ED: such measurements from just a glance, Kosuke plz tell us his 3 sizes too)

He looked older than Kosuke, about the same age as Horun.

He wore iron armor on his upper body, black leather pants, and had a large battle axe on his back. (ED: Kosuke his shoes tho I need to know)

After the man saw Kosuke he was shocked.

“Elder sister brought a man home? And he looks like a young one no older than 15! I thought sister didn’t have any interest in younger men.”

“Quit the nonsense!『Fire Ball』!”

Alice exposed her palm and shot out ten flames no larger than 1cm in size.

Kosuke had yet to see any magic used offensively since coming to this world, and the first instance of it was used as punishment.

“Hot, hot!”

The man was rolling on the ground, trying to avoid being burned.

“Miss Alice, do you know that man?”

“He is Yudi, though his name is actually Borudosu. Why did you come here?”

Alice crossed her arms and coldly stared at the man lying on the ground.

“I, I came to visit you, elder sister.”

The man’s face was warped in slight pain as he got up from the ground, clearly those burns hurt.

The cold gaze he was receiving gave no relief to those burns.

“Also, shouldn’t you have calmed down by now?”

“Calmed down? Why?”

“Because Horun…”

“What about me?”

Horun had come to the courtyard to heal the burns on Borudosu, but she couldn’t contain her curiosity at hearing her name spoken.

“Ah, long time no see. I was worried about elder sister since she got depressed when Horun was chosen as the sacrifice.”

Borudosu hadn’t realized who the girl in the courtyard was. (TL: Well it’s natural, right?)

“She is alive and well, why would I be depressed?”

“What are you spouting? Are you hallucinating out of loneliness?”

Borudosu seems really worried about his elder sister.

His eyes gave the feeling of pity and compassion. Horun felt like she was being

played.

Alice looked at Borudosu with a twitching mouth.

“Didn’t she die? Then who is that person standing next to you?”

”Next to me?”

Borudosu looked toward the empty side, Alice pointed to Horun indicating him that he turned to the wrong side.

“Horun… you are Horun right? Horun Horun……”

Borudosu repeatedly said Horun´s name.

Soon, he got to a conclusion and got white ash in his face, he moved back a step from Horun side.

“G… G… G… G… G… G… Ghost!”

Alice merciless hit Borudosu´s head.

Alice strength is D, she is even stronger than a usual hooligan.

Borudosu´s endurance are at C, so he didn’t suffer any injury.

But instead Alice who hit him got hurt her hand.

After letting Horun treating the burn, Borudosu finally accepted the fact that she is still alive, and smiled to cover his embarrassment.

“Aye – sorry. sorry. Hahahaha, I didn’t thought that you were still alive! Hahahaha indeed gratifying!”

Perhaps his heart was still a bit shaken, his eyes were not focused.

“Noisy. What are you laughing for, if you have to say something then just say it!”

“Mu, I´m sorry, I mistakenly thought that you were dead!”

“I don’t mind it. Even I didn’t expect that I would survive.”

“That’s right, why are you still alive? Oh no, I´m not blaming you for surviving. Could it be that you managed to escape? But it didn’t seems like the Black Dragon came out to destroy.”

Borudosu hadn’t thought about the possibility that the Black Dragon is dead.

Which was the normal reaction.

“Even if I say it you may not believe it, the Black Dragon had been killed by that kid. According to his statement it was an accident.”

After being patted at his head by Alice, Kousuke bowed to the stunned Borudosu.

“Dragonslayer? Come again-this is a joke, right?”

As Alice expected, Borudosu didn’t believe it. His expression was as if saying, even if it there was a big chance, this boy who doesn’t even looks like 15 years old couldn’t have killed the dragon.

So not even the fact that Horun was still alive, but even Kousuke´s identity card as an evidence, were all brought out.

“Wow – there is really the Title “Dragonslayer” written on it. Even with this obvious evidence I still can’t believe it, this kind of situation is still the first time for me.”

Borudosu let out a silent laughter.

Probably it was because he was too shocked, and couldn’t express the normal reaction of being surprised.

“Even if you don’t believe it, fact is fact. I have already personally confirmed the corpse of the dragon.”

Alice´s testimony was the crucial blow, Borudosu accepted the fact of the birth of the Dragonslayer and the death of the Dragon.

“About the appearance of the Dragonslayer don’t leak it, ok? If it came out it will only be troublesome. Let everyone think that it died out of illness or age.”

“Although it is hard to believe that the dragon was killed, but it is also hard to believe that the Dragon died of illness or age.”

Borudosu has personally seen the Black Dragon.

The impression of that time, couldn’t let him believe that such a thing like death will also occur to that Black Dragon.

The strength of the Black Dragon was that strong that one could be only impressed.

In addition to Borudosu, there are many who are like him and wouldn't believe that the Dragon is dead.

No matter how it died, most of the people can't believe it which is normal.

After Alice urged Kousuke to introduce himself after she said that unbelievable thing.

"Hello, I´m Watase Kousuke. Right now I'm living with Miss Alice and Horun."

"I´m Borudosu. I´m mo… mh… elder sister's brother. Thank you for saving Horun."

At the moment when he addressed Alice as his mother Borudosu was started at, and he quickly corrected himself.

Kousuke wanted to ask him why he changed it, but taking into account that the opposite might want to hid it he gave up that idea.

"Watase Kousuke in this area I haven't heard of a name with that kind of pronunciation."

"Ah, Watase is my surname, Kousuke is my name. You can call me Kousuke."

"Ok, Kousuke. Is it ok addressing you like that? Incidentally I don't have a surname. You don't need to be courteous when you´re talking with me. A boy who still hasn't grown mature shouldn't act like an adult."

"… At which age one does consider as an adult?"

Asked Kousuke since he was sure that Borudosu judged his age wrong.

"You don't know? You consider as one when you're 18 years old."

"I certainly am not of age, but I´m 18 in one year."

"Really? I thought that you're about 13 years old."

"The age you guessed, is even lower than what Miss Alice and Horun guessed."

But actually guessing it wrong up to 5 years is still too low, Kousuke couldn't help but to say it.

“It is because you look like a midget.”

“Compared to you, almost everyone is a midget.”

Although Kousuke´s height is lesser than the average, so the impression would be indeed a bit short, but taking Borudosu to compare is too unfair.

It just let one to think even shorter.

Alice’s height is a bit above average, nearly the same as Kousuke.

Horun is between the fourth to the shortest but she is only a bit shorter than Kousuke.

“Sorry, sorry. I´m only apologizing today.”

“You should blame yourself for having such a bigmouth.”

“That’s right.”

Borudosu let out a bitter smile after Alice said that, he stopped smiling, and revealed a puzzled expression.

“Anyway how did he killed that dragon?” Alice told him everything what happened after Kousuke came to this world.

After half of it was told, Kousuke noticed that the laundry finished washing, but Alice said they will continue after she is done, so he went to find Horun to chat in order to pass on time.

Horun these days seemed to be reading books about medicine and pharmacy.

Horun pointed out, that after her life was saved, she wanted to enjoy what interested her.

Just when Kousuke wanted to ask Horun a question about herbs, Alice and Borudosu´s conversation ended.

“This is really unbelievable.”

After finish listening to Alice, Borudosu made such a reaction. At the beginning he had a look of astonishment, and then it slowly turned into one of being loss.

“Not only being a Dragonslayer, but also from another world? Does it mean Mitalamu cares for you?” “Mitalamu?”

Kosuke asked Horun about that unknown word.

“She is the goddess of chances and inevitability.”

At this time, in Kousuke´s mind the a voice resounded『The Goddess Mitalamu is watching over you』. “Whoa!”

Kousuke who was surprised by the sudden voice looked around, the remaining three asked curiously about what happened.

In the past, there were animes with similar themes, while Kousuke thought that he told what he heard to the trio.

“You probably got a new Title.”

“There is such a possibility. Take out your card and look.”

Kousuke obedient took out the card and the Title emerged on it.

Below the Title Dragonslayer is one line more.

In words which Kousuke can’t read『The Goddess Mitalamu is watching over you』.”

“Indeed, there is one more.”

“You got another one.”

“So you really received a blessing.”

“The reason why I was brought to this world…does it have something to do with this Goddess?”

This was how receiving a title felt like. Kosuke was amazed by the progression of events and was wondering if he was summoned by Mitalamu.

In fact, he had heard the same voice resounding in his head when he collided with the dragon, but since he was unconscious at the time he wouldn’t remember.

Alice shook her head and denied Kosuke’s question.

“Mitalamu is only a middle-class Goddess, so she doesn’t have the ability to interfere with other worlds. By the way, even high-class Gods do not have that kind of ability. The only possibility would be the God of the World. However,

beyond his creation of this world, I haven't heard of anything else that he's done. You came here by sheer chance, therefore Mitalamu will pay special attention to you. Perhaps you caused something outside of her control and caught her interest."

"I feel like a circus animal. Anyhow, what kind of effect does this title have?"

"For that, we need to take out the measuring device to check it."

Kosuke requested that the laundry be finished before they check his title.

He couldn't just let the laundry just sit there and ignore it.

The next step would be to dehydrate it. After taking the laundry from the tub and placing it into the basket, one needed to cast the magic.

The weather was nice today so only half of the water was taken out by magic. Hanging the clothes to let them air dry would get the rest.

The degree of dehydration was determined by the amount of time the magic was active.

A complete dry took about 10 seconds, half dry took 5 seconds.

Since there was also anti-wrinkle magic, there was no need for concern on that front.

Sadly there was no magic to hang the laundry, so the four of them quickly hung up the clothes and went into the house.

Kosuke looked at the hanging clothes being embraced by the sunlight with a satisfied expression on his face, and walked into the house.

After checking with the device, they discovered that the title didn't give any special powers or attributes.

It seems like it's only a notice that the Gods are watching him.

"Having said that, you can enter the domain of God now."

"The domain of Gods is a place that forbids humans, isn't it?"

"Mm. That's right. Only a few who have a title with the name of a God are allowed to enter. In that domain, there are previous herbs, minerals, and rare creatures. If you can bring them back, you'll be able to live a pretty luxurious life.

Although getting to the domain is a tall order.”

“The domains of God can only be found in places that are extremely hard to reach.”

Borudosu knows the location of 4 domains, but they are all located in dangerous places.

The nearest one was at a place called the Pillar of the Abyss, located in the eastern part of the continent.

It’s called that due to the bottomless abyss of darkness. It looks like it was created by a huge pillar stabbing into the ground.

One can collect rare insects, minerals, and moss there.

All of the items from that place are priceless due to the special location.

“There is also nobody would would willingly go there. Even in the Adventurer’s Guild there are only a few requests regarding that.”

“That’s because it wouldn’t be useful to request it. Nobody would take it. Those kinds of requests are for adventurers with excess ability.”

Adventurers with enough strength can enter the domain, but they number very few. Therefore any request regarding the domain of God have a severe lack of qualified adventurers.

In addition to those, there are also domains of the Evil God.

In those domains, there are sealed Gods who could cause irreparable harm to the world and also have a lack of valuable objects. It’s really not a place people go out of their way to visit.

After the washing with magic and discussion about the domains of God, the four of them decided to have an early lunch.

Today it was Kosuke’s turn to make lunch.

With experience from his world, he knows he only has to follow his memory step by step to make food. There was no need to fear failure.

After checking his available ingredients he decided to make croquette.

Since there was still some bread and soup left over he decided to serve those

as well.

Kosuke had also learned how to cut ingredients with magic, so it was easier to make the food.

Taking advantage of the time Kosuke needed to cook, Borudosu reported the information he had gathered to Alice and Horun.

For example; A martial arts tournament was to be held in half a year, the north was still at war, there were rumors of high quality weaponry in an underground maze, and a criminal organization somewhere had been eliminated. Borudosu had all kinds of news and it was all taken in by Kosuke.

Kosuke placed the meals on the table and the trio stopped chatting. After praying they took their forks.

“I haven’t seen such a dish before,” said Borudosu while piercing a croquette with his fork.

“This should be a dish from Kosuke’s world. What’s the name of it?”

“Croquette.”

“As long as it’s tasty, anything is ok-…mh, it is really delicious.”

Borudosu started shoveling his portion away while Kosuke, Alice, and Horun discussed how to make the croquettes.

After the chatted up to how tempura was made, Horun stopped him in fear that the dishes would go cold.

As they wrapped up lunch and the dishes were cleaned up, the four of them started to chat.

“Kosuke and Borudosu should have a mock battle later.”

“No problem.”

“Huh?”

Borudosu nodded while Kosuke looked confused.

“Wh…why must we suddenly have a mock battle?”

“Because I want to see the fighting ability of a «Dragonslayer».”

“I haven’t even had experience in fighting, let alone a brawl with others!”

Couple with Borudosu’s clear physical advantage, Kosuke’s knees went weak.

“Since that’s the case, you should take this chance to get some experience. Our world is much more perilous compared to yours. At least with some practice under your belt you won’t panic when you finally face trouble.”

This world even has dragons, and other monsters that pose a threat to the lives and property of humans.

Kosuke could not argue that this place was not nearly as safe as Earth.

It seems like it’s inevitable that he would need to learn self-defense tactics, but being asked to suddenly fight was a little much for him.

“I didn’t mean that you had to kill each other. An unarmed battle is more than enough. I’ll stop it before something happens, you don’t need to worry about being hurt too much.”

Seeing Kosuke faltering, Alice tried to encourage him.

Horun was also supportive of the mock battle, she even volunteered to do the post-battle healing.

Since it’s being done as a precaution, Kosuke gave up and accepted seeing no other way out of it.

Even so, his expression was hazy.

Once again, they went to the courtyard but away from the laundry, to prevent it from getting dirty again.

Kosuke imitated Borudosu who was warming up.

Judging that they had done enough warm up stretches, Alice stood between the two of them.

“We’ll start in a moment.”

Hearing Alice voice, they turned around and faced each other.

“Before we start, Borudosu.”

“What?”

“You should first switch your title to «Berserker».”

From hearing that title, one could feel chills.

What was with that?

Kosuke let out a confused expression.

“That’s not really…switching to that title is not a good idea.”

Perhaps he wasn’t in agreement, but Borudosu had quite a resistant attitude to the idea.

“What are you saying? Your opponent’s title is «Dragonslayer». If you don’t strengthen your defense, then you will be hurt when it could have been avoided.”

“But if I switch to that title I will definitely go out of control.”

“Then either I or Kosuke will stop you.”

“You *have* to stop me, ok?”

Borudosu emphasized that over and over to Alice.

“I don’t want my house destroyed, of course I’ll stop you.”

“Ok.”

Borudosu looked up into the air.

This is probably the state one goes into when changing their title.

“The title «Berserker» sounds very terrifying. Is it really ok for him to equip that title?”

“Rest assured. You and I will certainly stop him. Did you finish switching yet? Battle start!”

As Alice announced that, she went back to Horun’s side.

She prepared some magic that could be released at any time and began to earnestly watch the battle.

She was serious and unwilling to miss a single move from Kosuke. This mock battle was under intense scrutiny.

“First, a few light blows.”

After saying that, Borudosu approached Kosuke from the front with a straight fist.

Although he had said light blows, these fists were much faster than a ruffian’s.

“Wah!”

Kosuke cried out, barely able to dodge to his right.

Even though Borudosu’s movements could be easily read, fear is hard to overcome.

“Here comes the next punch.”

Seeing Kosuke dodge one attack after another, Borudosu increased the speed thinking it wouldn’t be a problem.

After he confirmed Kosuke had dodged his jab, he followed up with a straight right.

That punch grazed Kosuke’s cheek.

His fist grazed Kosuke’s ear, and in the instant that his attention was drawn to that side, Borudosu followed up with a kick from the lower left.

With a loud noise it impacted Kosuke.

“It hurts…wait what?”

Kosuke felt a light vibration but no pain.

Borudosu followed up with a low kick from his left leg.

This time it was dodged by jumping. Borudosu set his left foot down and used it as a pivot for a roundhouse kick. His low kick was a facade to hide his forward movement.

The kick was barely dodged by Kosuke as it brushed past his clothes.

Feints and endless attacks streamed from Borudosu.

The gap between hits and misses were miniscule. You couldn’t tell which attacks were feints and which weren’t.

Borudosu’s movements were extraordinary, the relentless assault either

resulted in near hits or grazed Kosuke.

After a short period, Borudosu stopped fighting.

“Why do you only dodge? Can’t you counter?”

Borudosu stopped intentionally to incite an attack from Kosuke.

He also tried to provoke a reaction with a ‘Come on’ movement.

It may have been the provocation, it may have been because he saw a chance, but Kosuke finally threw out a punch.

In Borudosu’s eyes, the punch and preparation for it resulted in a failing grade.

He held out his right hand in order to block the first.

The sloppy punch impacted his outstretched hand.

Borudosu though for sure he could catch the fist, but he didn’t expect the impact to break through his defense.

His chest and right hand were hit directly. He was pushed by the impact and stumbled back a few steps.

He was somewhat surprised but still let out a small smile. He was admiring the power of a «Dragonslayer».

Borudosu’s attitude changed after receiving the punch.

He started releasing an aura out of his body.
(TL: Aura in this case something like Qi in chinese story, can also be the aura of a killer a bloody aura)

Although Kosuke was scared by the aura and shrunk back, Borudosu started his assault anew and ignored Kosuke’s reaction. Kosuke could barely endure it.

Borudosu’s eyes lacked rationality, only the thirst for battle emerged.

His aura also emitted an intent to kill.

Becoming the target of such bloodthirst was a first for Kosuke, he felt a strong chill hit him.

“His breathing changed! It’s like he has a cold aura around him!”

“Now it really starts, be careful!”

“Really starts?”

Alice wasn’t lying.

Borudosu’s movements did not show mercy.

Kosuke stared at Borudosu, his body was somehow able to resist Borudosu’s aura. The mental pressure on the other hand was too much for him.

But realizing his opponent didn’t have any intention to stop, Kosuke concentrated in order to observe Borudosu’s movements, making preparations to dodge.

Borudosu closed the distance between them in a speed that Horun couldn’t perceive. He used every part of his body to attack; his knees, elbows, shoulders, everything. No feints, every attack was thrown to defeat Kosuke.

“Uhaaa!”

“Woah, that was dangerous!”

Kosuke rapidly dodged.

Although at first he was grazed by the attacks, Kosuke slowly increased his successful dodge rate and Borudosu eventually became unable to hit him.

Just like how Borudosu had changed his attitude earlier, Kosuke was forced to do the same in the heat of battle.

Regarding physical ability, Kosuke is better than Borudosu.

As long as he was focusing on dodging, Borudosu’s movements were laid bare in front of him.

Kosuke couldn’t dodge by prediction due to his lack of experience.

Borudosu was becoming more violent due to his «Beserker» title, causing his attacks to become disorganized. Kosuke was taking advantage of his dynamic vision to dodge attacks with ease.

After 10 minutes, Kosuke could avoid any attack from Borudosu.

His movements reflected his growth. Earlier he was making big movements to dodge, but now he was doing the absolute minimum to avoid Borudosu.

“Kosuke.”

“What is it?”

He still had the energy to answer Alice’s question.

“You can give him a good punch.”

“It shouldn’t be a problem, but…are you sure?”

“He has to lose consciousness otherwise he won’t stop in that state. Even if he gets some bruises, Horun can just heal him up. Don’t hesitate.”

“I’m not sure I can knock him out though.”

Kosuke knew his strength was great, but he didn’t know exactly how strong he was. He didn’t know if he had to hold back.”

“If you can’t do it, I will.”

Kosuke waited for an attack.

The opportunity came quickly, Borudosu’s movements were big and unwieldy and he lost his balance.

“Now!”

Kosuke took advantage of the time it took Borudosu to stand up and slapped at his stomach.

He used a slap since an inexperienced fighter could easily hurt their fist with a punch.

Borudosu’s body bent and flew 5 meters away, crashing to the ground.

Everyone was shocked speechless.

It was the first time any of them had seen a human fly like that.

“…This is…”

Borudosu seemed to be unconscious, he was laying on the ground and wasn’t moving.

“…is Borudosu alright?”

Kosuke said with a stiff expression while pointing at Borudosu.

Alice and Horun woke up upon hearing that.

Horun quickly went to Borudosu to check his wounds.

“Horun, how is he?”

“I can heal him, but the injury is more serious than we imagined.”

After Horun´s affirmation, Alice relaxed her serious expression.

“What is the state of his injuries?”

“His ribs, sternum and spine cracked. His abdominal muscles are also injured. His Internal Organs are also injured, but the injury is not severe. To be safe we should prepare something easy to digestible for dinner for him.”

“It’s my fault that I order Kosuke to attack him.”

“… I’m the one who attacked him, I´m also at fault. This power is just too terrifying.”

Kosuke`s voice was trembling.

Kosuke’s heart was heavy as well his knees were trembling right now.

Although he didn’t had the intention to kill, but the fact that he nearly taken the life of someone made him fear it in his heart.

Kosuke himself was being hit by Borudosu several times, but was unharmed.

Who would have thought that there was an overwhelming gap of strength.

“If you can maintain that attitude, then there is no need to fear that in the future you would misuse your power for violence.”

Alice’s words also implied that she “hopes that he can do it”.

“… there is no need to mention using violence, I already hesitate if I should use this power or not.”

“A hesitating attitude will let you in an unexpected situation that you won’t be able to act against it. You need to get used to this power, will it be beneficial or harmful will depend on how you use it. Don’t use it for wrong things, don’t get controlled by your own desire, and don’t let your power get over your head. You just need to follow those points, then it should be able to peacefully coexist with

you, ok?”

“Just like weapons? Weapons have no feelings, good or evil it depends on how it is used. In the past I have heard such a phrase.”

“That’s just like that. I will continue to guide you on how to use your power. How you use it, you need to think about it yourself Kosuke.”

Alice picked up Borudosu which received treatment and moved into the house.

Seeing the small framed Alice carrying the big built Borudosu looked strange, but her strength was at D, so even carrying Borudosu wasn’t hard for her.

An hour later, Borudosu woke up.

Thanks to Horun´s treatment, his stomach only hurts now but it´s not that bad.

With an unsightly face he had a pondering expression, he thought for a while but still didn’t know why, then he looked up looking at Kosuke and Alice.

“In the end who stopped me?”

He asked Kosuke and Alice.

“Do you not remember?”

“As soon as I go berserk I lose my memory of it. So who stopped me?”

“I was the one that did it. I heavily hit your stomach.”

“Ah, so that’s why my stomach hurts.”

Borudosu suddenly nodded and rubbed his stomach.

“I’m sorry.”

“There is no need to apologize. I was already prepared to be hurt.”

Replied Borudosu smiling while waving lightly his hand to Kosuke.

“I also need to apologize.”

“Elder Sister too…?”

Seeing Alice apologizing, Borudosu was shocked.

“Your stomach is hurting is because I told Kosuke that there is no need to hold

back and attack. I didn’t thought that his power was that strong. Fortunately, we let you use that title to strengthen your body.”

“Even elder sister has a bitter face while apologizing, then the injury which I got were that serious?”

Borudosu asked Horun who saved him.

“Your ribs and spine are cracked, your abdominal muscle and internal organs are injured. If we allow your body naturally recover, it would take 3 weeks till you can eat normally. After suffering such a serious injury, most people would already have died.”

After learning how serious the injuries which he suffered were, Borudosu couldn’t laugh anymore.

And he could understand why those two seriously apologize.

Borudosu´s constitution after strengthen are C+ at strength and C at endurance.

Even if it was for work, it was rare that he would get hurt while in the state of having that title active.

“A Dragonslayer really can’t be taken lightly.”

“How do you feel after actually fighting one?”

Borudosu tapped his forehead with his finger trying to remember.

“In my impression it was unbalanced. While his fighting style was a mess, but his power was terrifying. So even if he can´t predict the attacks of his opponent´s movement, he can still dodge with his eyes. Being tricked by feints is because he still lacks combat experience. As soon as he learns how to fight, I think he will be at between the top warriors in a blink of an eye.”

“That’s because his basic qualities are good. Borudosu, you should teach him how to fight.”

“I’m good with it, but I can´t stay too long, ok? If I don’t complete my requests, I will become poor….”

(TL: Chinese translation says that he would die of being too poor)

“It won’t take you much time. When he learned magic, he absorbed it quickly. You only need to teach him the basics, there is no need to worry about it later.”

“Anyway he just needs to find a way to land a punch then it is enough. Wait a moment I will need to first teach him how to hold a sword.”

Borudosu believes, that if a physical attack is used at a lower grade monster, Kosuke has the ability to one-shot kill it.

After determining that the talk of those two ended, Kosuke asked a question which was on his mind.

“What was that change with you while the battle?”

“You mean that? That is caused by the talent Fury. The effect is enhancing the strength and endurance by one rank and indiscriminating attacking. After suffering a certain degree of attack one will return to normal.”

“But Alice said that I needed to knock you unconscious, in order to stop it, right?”

“That’s because of the title. The title Berserker will enhance the effect of Fury. Strength and Endurance will also go up a Rank. In contrast, only suffering a bit of damage will not return one to normal.”

“Your title is really difficult.”

Borudosu nodded in approval to Kousuke.

He also thinks that his talent and title are not easy to use.

“So I usually use the title Survivor. Survivor can enhance strength and accelerate the speed of healing one’s wound. It was quite troublesome to get that title. But I’m still suffering from that blow.”

A title can be changed, but a talent cannot.

The Talent Fury will grow even more difficult, but one can learn how to control it.

So the training which Borudosu does is still lacking.

“So there are titles and talents which brings negative effects to the holders.”

“The number of them are not that big.”

After they were done talking Kosuke and Borudosu went outside, while Alice and Horun stayed in the house and passed the time.

Borudosu used an ax to cut nearby branches, then he removed the twigs and trimmed them to about the same length of a sword, he gave it to Kosuke.

Then after Alice gave the order, he began to teach the grip posture first and some sword postures, and told Kosuke to train with it.

While Borudosu watched his exercises, and also correcting where he did wrong.

Before using an ax, the weapon Borudosu used was a sword, so teaching the basics of it isn't hard for him.

As long as Kosuke learns the sword postures, Borudosu will teach him the next steps.

Before the sun went down, Kosuke learned all the sword postures which were taught by Borudosu correctly.

And Borudosu couldn't find an error to correct.

After that one only need to practice the posture, seeing that Kosuke´s learning ability is that strong, Borudosu was both surprised and dumbfounded, that he wore a hollow laughter.

No matter what is taught he will learn it quickly, which made Kosuke happy.

While a uncomfortable feeling disappear with every repetition of the sword movement, as if he obtained it gradually by revision, filled with a sense that is similar to as if one can solve every riddle easily such sense of accomplishment, or a sense of fulfillment.

"Today we will stop here. If we continue I will lose my confidence."

"I´m also scared by my learning ability. The blessing of a Dragonslayer is really is a cheat."

This is because Kosuke knows that without that the title's support, he couldn't learn so fast, and his endurance couldn't cope up with it, so he knows clearly how exaggerated that effect is.

“That´s right.”

After Kosuke put the stick which should be used tomorrow against the wall he went to wash his hands.

Then he brought the collected dry clothes back to the house and asked Alice for the Anti-Wrinkle magic.

Kosuke is wearing right now are the old clothes from Borudosu.

Borudosu wanted to throw away those old clothes which he couldn’t wear anymore, but Alice kept them all.

Seeing his own old clothes from a decade ago being brought out, Borudosu felt nostalgic.

After the folded cloths were cleared up, Alice started to cook dinner.

Because of Borudosu, she planned to make some dishes which are easy to digest.

After dinner, they quietly spent their peaceful night.

When Borudosu was resting in his bedroom, someone knocked at his door.

The one who opened the door was Horun.

“How do you feel?”

“Ah, Horun? I’m already feeling better.”

“Just to be sure, I will check you again.”

Even if Borudosu felt that there was no serious problem, but he still obediently accepted the checkup, maybe by relying on the diagnosis of a doctor he can find out something abnormal which he couldn’t find himself.

After all he is making money with manual labor, so he’ll need to take care of his body.

Horun moved to a convenient location to examine him, he lifted up his shirt.

After confirming his body with magic that everything is normal, Horun told Borudosu the result.

“Thank you.”

“This is my job.”

After Borudosu set his cloths, he said:

“It´s great that you’re alright. I thought that we could never see each other again.”

“I´m also really happy to be alive. This is all thanks to Kosuke.”

“Your savior who broke your fate of dying? Maybe he is your fated one. Will you not consider to marry him?”

“Ah? I didn’t thought you were a romanticist?”

Being told by Horun or perhaps suddenly feeling embarrassed, Borudosu hide his expression as if he never said anything.

“There is nothing to be embarrassed about. My fated one huh… for me he is my savior.”

Recalling what happened in the last week, Horun knows that she has feeling of thanks and love for Kosuke, but it is not a romantically love.

Seeing the happy Kosuke she feels warm, and she also thinks that his smile is cute.

But that is not the feeling between man and woman, more like family or motherly love.

“I don’t have romantic feeling for him, but I don’t mean that I hate him.”

“After a hero rescue there is a mutual goodwill and then they will fall in love, this kind of situation is common.”

“How should I say it, before we arrived here Kosuke did not only showed his strength, but also his weak side and his behavior appropriate for his age. I’ve seen it all. So I think he is really cute. If I had a younger brother, then when we get along, then it should feel like this, I think.”

“Younger brother? Perhaps you think about him being family too much.”

“Probably.”

If in the future Kosuke shows his reliable side, Horun´s feeling might change into love.

Borudosu silently thought about it.

| MAIN PAGE |

Part 1

Hajiko: So here is chapter 5 part 1 well there is nothing much to say but… Enjoy.

Xant: Goddamn son I am so hyped for Tree of Savior. Oracle all the way~

A Side Effect of the Dragonslayer Title

It had been two days since he learned magic.

In this period, Kosuke also learned other magics.

His ability to memorize things was better now compared to the past, so he absorbed the information quickly.

Though he really only learned simple magic.

Alice had sent the letter to the Kosuberu family on a rainy day.

They should be sending an investigation team to the mountains within the next few days to search for the dragon's corpse.

Kosuke's current objective was to learn interpretation magic until he could use it with ease, as well as the other simple magics.

He was studying healing and basic household magics.

Alice and Horun oversaw his learning. In the beginning, he felt that the magic for making a fried egg was really boring, but he eventually recognized the importance of that magic and began learning earnestly.

The magic in question didn't require any fire, one just needed to prepare a dish with eggs on it.

This was important for people who were adventuring or who were in trouble.

Horun was teaching him healing magic since it's her forte.

Alice had decided to teach him the household magics mainly to have someone else split the workload with her.

The only way to learn all of this was to go slowly and methodically.

Alice had the impression that Kosuke had never cooked before, that's why she had taught him the fried egg magic. (ED: University life 101, eggs all day)

Kosuke actually had some knowledge of how to cook, he just needed a recipe to follow.

He could make satisfactory dishes at most.

The actual preparation for cooking wasn't complicated.

Since the correction effect of his «Dragonslayer» title was in effect, as long as he practiced he would rapidly become better.

"This time I'll teach you magic for washing cloth."

"Oh, okay."

Kosuke followed Alice to the courtyard.

Next to them was a basket with clothes and a washtub.

Kosuke noticed the lack of a cleaning agent.

Could it be they never developed one?

Or that they didn't need it?

He still wasn't clear about that.

Horun was sitting next to the window, listening to the sounds coming from outside while reading a book.

"First put the water into the washtub followed by the clothes."

Kosuke put the clothes, socks and underwear into the basin.

"Mh?"

"Is something wrong?"

"Why is your underwear mixed in? Please separate them!" (TL: Is that not something that a girl should say Kosuke?)(ED: U wot m8)

Clearly seeing the female underwear, Kosuke couldn't help but blush in shame.

"No need to freak out, at my age there's nothing to be shy about."

“What are you talking about? You look like you’re 20 years old.”

“I’m 70 years old this year.” (TL: What!! O.O)(ED: …)

Kosuke stared at Alice.

Her skin’s natural elasticity and glossy sheen, body stature, and her hair, no matter how you sliced it she looked around 20 years old.

Even when she was being stared at from head to toe, she never went a shade of red.

It seems she really didn’t have a sense of shame anymore.

“It’s because I’m from a race that lives a long time.”

“That’s really something you’d only hear about in another world…ok, I understand your mentality on this matter. Even so, why is Horun’s underwear mixed in here with mine as well?”

“Mine? I didn’t know you were washing today. Besides, I don’t know how to wash the clothes myself so I don’t complain if someone else does it for me. However, having my underwear stared at is a bit…”

Horun’s cheeks became slightly crimson as she looked away.

“I’ll be careful,” answered Kosuke before he regained his composure and faced Alice.

“You ready then? All right, let’s continue. Chant the spell『Squash squash get washed』, point your finger at the clothes and basin, and rotate the finger clockwise. It requires about 13 times the MP that Light magic does.” (TL: Will call illumination magic now Light magic)(ED: ohgod that chant)

“『Squash squash get washed』.” (ED: LOL)

Following Alice’s command, Kosuke used the washing magic.

The clothes in the basin floated into the air and stopped about 50 centimeters above the ground and began to spin.

The spinning direction changed from clockwise to counterclockwise, and the clothes were compressed into a ball.

In the eyes of Kosuke, this scene felt just like a magic version of a washing

machine.

“If there’s any stubborn dirt or stains, just use soil release or decontamination magic.”

“How does that one go?”

“You just point straight at the laundry and cast『Dirt be gone』. It requires about 8 times the MP of Light magic.”

Kosuke tried to use this magic.

A ray of smoke got mixed into the ball of water.

“Now we wait until it stops rotating. It takes about 30 minutes. The rotation speed will slowly decrease and the water will return into the basin.”

“So there’s 30 minutes of free time? What should I do? Also, do I need to stare at it while it’s rotating?”

“Don’t worry.”

“It still feels very troublesome. I thought that it would all get cleaned immediately.”

“That kind of magic does exist, but it doesn’t work well with lots of laundry.”

“So there really is a convenient magic like that.”

As Kosuke turned around and started to return to the house, he noticed a shadow belonging to a person hiding at the corner of the house.

The owner of the shadow stepped out into view.

He has short blue hair and black eyes, and his face gave off an honest air.

He was about 1.8m tall. (ED: such measurements from just a glance, Kosuke plz tell us his 3 sizes too)

He looked older than Kosuke, about the same age as Horun.

He wore iron armor on his upper body, black leather pants, and had a large battle axe on his back. (ED: Kosuke his shoes tho I need to know)

After the man saw Kosuke he was shocked.

“Elder sister brought a man home? And he looks like a young one no older than

15! I thought sister didn't have any interest in younger men."

"Quit the nonsense!『Fire Ball』!"

Alice exposed her palm and shot out ten flames no larger than 1cm in size.

Kosuke had yet to see any magic used offensively since coming to this world, and the first instance of it was used as punishment.

"Hot, hot!"

The man was rolling on the ground, trying to avoid being burned.

"Miss Alice, do you know that man?"

"He is Yudi, though his name is actually Borudosu. Why did you come here?"

Alice crossed her arms and coldly stared at the man lying on the ground.

"I, I came to visit you, elder sister."

The man's face was warped in slight pain as he got up from the ground, clearly those burns hurt.

The cold gaze he was receiving gave no relief to those burns.

"Also, shouldn't you have calmed down by now?"

"Calmed down? Why?"

"Because Horun…"

"What about me?"

Horun had come to the courtyard to heal the burns on Borudosu, but she couldn't contain her curiosity at hearing her name spoken.

"Ah, long time no see. I was worried about elder sister since she got depressed when Horun was chosen as the sacrifice."

Borudosu hadn't realized who the girl in the courtyard was. (TL: Well it's natural, right?)

"She is alive and well, why would I be depressed?"

"What are you spouting? Are you hallucinating out of loneliness?"

Borudosu seems really worried about his elder sister.

His eyes gave the feeling of pity and compassion. Horun felt like she was being played.

Alice looked at Borudosu with a twitching mouth.

“Didn’t she die? Then who is that person standing next to you?”

Part 2

Hajiko: Nothing to say but enjoy.

Editor: KL

”Next to me?”

Borudosu looked toward the empty side, Alice pointed to Horun indicating him that he turned to the wrong side.

“Horun… you are Horun right? Horun Horun……”

Borudosu repeatedly said Horun´s name.

Soon, he got to a conclusion and got white ash in his face, he moved back a step from Horun side.

“G… G… G… G… G… G… Ghost!”

Alice merciless hit Borudosu´s head.

Alice strength is D, she is even stronger than a usual hooligan.

Borudosu´s endurance are at C, so he didn’t suffer any injury.

But instead Alice who hit him got hurt her hand.

After letting Horun treating the burn, Borudosu finally accepted the fact that she is still alive, and smiled to cover his embarrassment.

“Aye – sorry. sorry. Hahahaha, I didn’t thought that you were still alive! Hahahaha indeed gratifying!”

Perhaps his heart was still a bit shaken, his eyes were not focused.

“Noisy. What are you laughing for, if you have to say something then just say it!”

“Mu, I´m sorry, I mistakenly thought that you were dead!”

“I don’t mind it. Even I didn’t expect that I would survive.”

“That’s right, why are you still alive? Oh no, I´m not blaming you for surviving. Could it be that you managed to escape? But it didn’t seems like the Black Dragon came out to destroy.”

Borudosu hadn’t thought about the possibility that the Black Dragon is dead.

Which was the normal reaction.

“Even if I say it you may not believe it, the Black Dragon had been killed by that kid. According to his statement it was an accident.”

After being patted at his head by Alice, Kousuke bowed to the stunned Borudosu.

“Dragonslayer? Come again-this is a joke, right?”

As Alice expected, Borudosu didn’t believe it. His expression was as if saying, even if it there was a big chance, this boy who doesn’t even looks like 15 years old couldn’t have killed the dragon.

So not even the fact that Horun was still alive, but even Kousuke´s identity card as an evidence, were all brought out.

“Wow – there is really the Title “Dragonslayer” written on it. Even with this obvious evidence I still can’t believe it, this kind of situation is still the first time for me.”

Borudosu let out a silent laughter.

Probably it was because he was too shocked, and couldn’t express the normal reaction of being surprised.

“Even if you don’t believe it, fact is fact. I have already personally confirmed the corpse of the dragon.”

Alice´s testimony was the crucial blow, Borudosu accepted the fact of the birth of the Dragonslayer and the death of the Dragon.

“About the appearance of the Dragonslayer don’t leak it, ok? If it came out it will only be troublesome. Let everyone think that it died out of illness or age.”

“Although it is hard to believe that the dragon was killed, but it is also hard to believe that the Dragon died of illness or age.”

Borudosu has personally seen the Black Dragon.

The impression of that time, couldn’t let him believe that such a thing like death will also occur to that Black Dragon.

The strength of the Black Dragon was that strong that one could be only impressed.

In addition to Borudosu, there are many who are like him and wouldn’t believe that the Dragon is dead.

No matter how it died, most of the people can’t believe it which is normal.

After Alice urged Kousuke to introduce himself after she said that unbelievable thing.

“Hello, I´m Watase Kousuke. Right now I’m living with Miss Alice and Horun.”

“I´m Borudosu. I´m mo… mh… elder sister’s brother. Thank you for saving Horun.”

At the moment when he addressed Alice as his mother Borudosu was started at, and he quickly corrected himself.

Kousuke wanted to ask him why he changed it, but taking into account that the opposite might want to hid it he gave up that idea.

“Watase Kousuke in this area I haven’t heard of a name with that kind of pronunciation.”

“Ah, Watase is my surname, Kousuke is my name. You can call me Kousuke.”

“Ok, Kousuke. Is it ok addressing you like that? Incidentally I don’t have a surname. You don’t need to be courteous when you´re talking with me. A boy who still hasn’t grown mature shouldn’t act like an adult.”

“… At which age one does consider as an adult?”

Asked Kousuke since he was sure that Borudosu judged his age wrong.

“You don’t know? You consider as one when you’re 18 years old.”

“I certainly am not of age, but I´m 18 in one year.”

“Really? I thought that you’re about 13 years old.”

“The age you guessed, is even lower than what Miss Alice and Horun guessed.”

But actually guessing it wrong up to 5 years is still too low, Kousuke couldn’t help but to say it.

“It is because you look like a midget.”

“Compared to you, almost everyone is a midget.”

Although Kousuke´s height is lesser than the average, so the impression would be indeed a bit short, but taking Borudosu to compare is too unfair.

It just let one to think even shorter.

Alice’s height is a bit above average, nearly the same as Kousuke.

Horun is between the fourth to the shortest but she is only a bit shorter than Kousuke.

“Sorry, sorry. I´m only apologizing today.”

“You should blame yourself for having such a bigmouth.”

“That’s right.”

Borudosu let out a bitter smile after Alice said that, he stopped smiling, and revealed a puzzled expression.

“Anyway how did he killed that dragon?” Alice told him everything what happened after Kousuke came to this world.

After half of it was told, Kousuke noticed that the laundry finished washing, but Alice said they will continue after she is done, so he went to find Horun to chat in order to pass on time.

Horun these days seemed to be reading books about medicine and pharmacy.

Horun pointed out, that after her life was saved, she wanted to enjoy what interested her.

Just when Kousuke wanted to ask Horun a question about herbs, Alice and Borudosu´s conversation ended.

“This is really unbelievable.”

After finish listening to Alice, Borudosu made such a reaction. At the beginning

he had a look of astonishment, and then it slowly turned into one of being loss.

“Not only being a Dragonslayer, but also from another world? Does it mean Mitalamu cares for you?” “Mitalamu?”

Kosuke asked Horun about that unknown word.

“She is the goddess of chances and inevitability.”

At this time, in Kousuke´s mind the a voice resounded『The Goddess Mitalamu is watching over you』. “Whoa!”

Kousuke who was surprised by the sudden voice looked around, the remaining three asked curiously about what happened.

In the past, there were animes with similar themes, while Kousuke thought that he told what he heard to the trio.

“You probably got a new Title.”

“There is such a possibility. Take out your card and look.”

Kousuke obedient took out the card and the Title emerged on it.

Below the Title Dragonslayer is one line more.

In words which Kousuke can’t read『The Goddess Mitalamu is watching over you』.”

Part 3

Hajiko: Here is the third part of this chapter also in this part we will now why or a possibility why his second Title is『The Goddess Mitalamu is watching over you』well beside that there is nothing to say but Enjoy.

Xant: I AM NOW ASSUMING DIRECT CONTROL OF THIS CHAPTER. But srs hi again. I can't help but type Mitalamulamulamu every time…this is slowing me down a lot.

"Indeed, there is one more."

"You got another one."

"So you really received a blessing."

"The reason why I was brought to this world…does it have something to do with this Goddess?"

This was how receiving a title felt like. Kosuke was amazed by the progression of events and was wondering if he was summoned by Mitalamu.

In fact, he had heard the same voice resounding in his head when he collided with the dragon, but since he was unconscious at the time he wouldn't remember.

Alice shook her head and denied Kosuke's question.

"Mitalamu is only a middle-class Goddess, so she doesn't have the ability to interfere with other worlds. By the way, even high-class Gods do not have that kind of ability. The only possibility would be the God of the World. However, beyond his creation of this world, I haven't heard of anything else that he's done. You came here by sheer chance, therefore Mitalamu will pay special attention to you. Perhaps you caused something outside of her control and caught her interest."

"I feel like a circus animal. Anyhow, what kind of effect does this title have?"

“For that, we need to take out the measuring device to check it.”

Kosuke requested that the laundry be finished before they check his title.

He couldn’t just let the laundry just sit there and ignore it.

The next step would be to dehydrate it. After taking the laundry from the tub and placing it into the basket, one needed to cast the magic.

The weather was nice today so only half of the water was taken out by magic. Hanging the clothes to let them air dry would get the rest.

The degree of dehydration was determined by the amount of time the magic was active.

A complete dry took about 10 seconds, half dry took 5 seconds.

Since there was also anti-wrinkle magic, there was no need for concern on that front.

Sadly there was no magic to hang the laundry, so the four of them quickly hung up the clothes and went into the house.

Kosuke looked at the hanging clothes being embraced by the sunlight with a satisfied expression on his face, and walked into the house.

After checking with the device, they discovered that the title didn’t give any special powers or attributes.

It seems like it’s only a notice that the Gods are watching him.

“Having said that, you can enter the domain of God now.”

“The domain of Gods is a place that forbids humans, isn’t it?”

“Mm. That’s right. Only a few who have a title with the name of a God are allowed to enter. In that domain, there are previous herbs, minerals, and rare creatures. If you can bring them back, you’ll be able to live a pretty luxurious life. Although getting to the domain is a tall order.”

“The domains of God can only be found in places that are extremely hard to reach.”

Borudosu knows the location of 4 domains, but they are all located in dangerous places.

The nearest one was at a place called the Pillar of the Abyss, located in the eastern part of the continent.

It's called that due to the bottomless abyss of darkness. It looks like it was created by a huge pillar stabbing into the ground.

One can collect rare insects, minerals, and moss there.

All of the items from that place are priceless due to the special location.

"There is also nobody would would willingly go there. Even in the Adventurer's Guild there are only a few requests regarding that."

"That's because it wouldn't be useful to request it. Nobody would take it. Those kinds of requests are for adventurers with excess ability."

Adventurers with enough strength can enter the domain, but they number very few. Therefore any request regarding the domain of God have a severe lack of qualified adventurers.

In addition to those, there are also domains of the Evil God.

In those domains, there are sealed Gods who could cause irreparable harm to the world and also have a lack of valuable objects. It's really not a place people go out of their way to visit.

After the washing with magic and discussion about the domains of God, the four of them decided to have an early lunch.

Today it was Kosuke's turn to make lunch.

With experience from his world, he knows he only has to follow his memory step by step to make food. There was no need to fear failure.

After checking his available ingredients he decided to make croquette.

Since there was still some bread and soup left over he decided to serve those as well.

Kosuke had also learned how to cut ingredients with magic, so it was easier to make the food.

Taking advantage of the time Kosuke needed to cook, Borudosu reported the information he had gathered to Alice and Horun.

For example; A martial arts tournament was to be held in half a year, the north was still at war, there were rumors of high quality weaponry in an underground maze, and a criminal organization somewhere had been eliminated. Borudosu had all kinds of news and it was all taken in by Kosuke.

Kosuke placed the meals on the table and the trio stopped chatting. After praying they took their forks.

“I haven’t seen such a dish before,” said Borudosu while piercing a croquette with his fork.

“This should be a dish from Kosuke’s world. What’s the name of it?”

“Croquette.”

“As long as it’s tasty, anything is ok-…mh, it is really delicious.”

Borudosu started shoveling his portion away while Kosuke, Alice, and Horun discussed how to make the croquettes.

After the chatted up to how tempura was made, Horun stopped him in fear that the dishes would go cold.

As they wrapped up lunch and the dishes were cleaned up, the four of them started to chat.

“Kosuke and Borudosu should have a mock battle later.”

“No problem.”

“Huh?”

Borudosu nodded while Kosuke looked confused.

“Wh…why must we suddenly have a mock battle?”

“Because I want to see the fighting ability of a «Dragonslayer».”

“I haven’t even had experience in fighting, let alone a brawl with others!”

Couple with Borudosu’s clear physical advantage, Kosuke’s knees went weak.

“Since that’s the case, you should take this chance to get some experience. Our world is much more perilous compared to yours. At least with some practice under your belt you won’t panic when you finally face trouble.”

This world even has dragons, and other monsters that pose a threat to the lives and property of humans.

Kosuke could not argue that this place was not nearly as safe as Earth.

It seems like it's inevitable that he would need to learn self-defense tactics, but being asked to suddenly fight was a little much for him.

"I didn't mean that you had to kill each other. An unarmed battle is more than enough. I'll stop it before something happens, you don't need to worry about being hurt too much."

Seeing Kosuke faltering, Alice tried to encourage him.

Horun was also supportive of the mock battle, she even volunteered to do the post-battle healing.

Since it's being done as a precaution, Kosuke gave up and accepted seeing no other way out of it.

Even so, his expression was hazy.

Once again, they went to the courtyard but away from the laundry, to prevent it from getting dirty again.

Kosuke imitated Borudosu who was warming up.

Judging that they had done enough warm up stretches, Alice stood between the two of them.

"We'll start in a moment."

Hearing Alice voice, they turned around and faced each other.

"Before we start, Borudosu."

"What?"

"You should first switch your title to «Berserker»."

From hearing that title, one could feel chills.

What was with that?

Kosuke let out a confused expression.

"That's not really…switching to that title is not a good idea."

Perhaps he wasn’t in agreement, but Borudosu had quite a resistant attitude to the idea.

“What are you saying? Your opponent’s title is «Dragonslayer». If you don’t strengthen your defense, then you will be hurt when it could have been avoided.”

“But if I switch to that title I will definitely go out of control.”

Part 4

Hajiko: So here is part 4, uff I can only say it was quite hard with some sentences there and also with the weather while I translated it I often lost my motivation but fortunately it got colder at the end of the week so I could still get it done. So about this part I can only say his power is OP but he still lack technique. So enjoy.

Xant: Enjoy the op strength reveal chapter! Slapslapslap

“Then either I or Kosuke will stop you.”

“You *have* to stop me, ok?”

Borudosu emphasized that over and over to Alice.

“I don’t want my house destroyed, of course I’ll stop you.”

“Ok.”

Borudosu looked up into the air.

This is probably the state one goes into when changing their title.

“The title «Berserker» sounds very terrifying. Is it really ok for him to equip that title?”

“Rest assured. You and I will certainly stop him. Did you finish switching yet? Battle start!”

As Alice announced that, she went back to Horun’s side.

She prepared some magic that could be released at any time and began to earnestly watch the battle.

She was serious and unwilling to miss a single move from Kosuke. This mock battle was under intense scrutiny.

“First, a few light blows.”

After saying that, Borudosu approached Kosuke from the front with a straight fist.

Although he had said light blows, these fists were much faster than a ruffian's.

"Wah!"

Kosuke cried out, barely able to dodge to his right.

Even though Borudosu's movements could be easily read, fear is hard to overcome.

"Here comes the next punch."

Seeing Kosuke dodge one attack after another, Borudosu increased the speed thinking it wouldn't be a problem.

After he confirmed Kosuke had dodged his jab, he followed up with a straight right.

That punch grazed Kosuke's cheek.

His fist grazed Kosuke's ear, and in the instant that his attention was drawn to that side, Borudosu followed up with a kick from the lower left.

With a loud noise it impacted Kosuke.

"It hurts…wait what?"

Kosuke felt a light vibration but no pain.

Borudosu followed up with a low kick from his left leg.

This time it was dodged by jumping. Borudosu set his left foot down and used it as a pivot for a roundhouse kick. His low kick was a facade to hide his forward movement.

The kick was barely dodged by Kosuke as it brushed past his clothes.

Feints and endless attacks streamed from Borudosu.

The gap between hits and misses were miniscule. You couldn't tell which attacks were feints and which weren't.

Borudosu's movements were extraordinary, the relentless assault either resulted in near hits or grazed Kosuke.

After a short period, Borudosu stopped fighting.

"Why do you only dodge? Can't you counter?"

Borudosu stopped intentionally to incite an attack from Kosuke.

He also tried to provoke a reaction with a ‘Come on’ movement.

It may have been the provocation, it may have been because he saw a chance, but Kosuke finally threw out a punch.

In Borudosu’s eyes, the punch and preparation for it resulted in a failing grade.

He held out his right hand in order to block the first.

The sloppy punch impacted his outstretched hand.

Borudosu though for sure he could catch the fist, but he didn’t expect the impact to break through his defense.

His chest and right hand were hit directly. He was pushed by the impact and stumbled back a few steps.

He was somewhat surprised but still let out a small smile. He was admiring the power of a «Dragonslayer».

Borudosu’s attitude changed after receiving the punch.

He started releasing an aura out of his body.
(TL: Aura in this case something like Qi in chinese story, can also be the aura of a killer a bloody aura)

Although Kosuke was scared by the aura and shrunk back, Borudosu started his assault anew and ignored Kosuke’s reaction. Kosuke could barely endure it.

Borudosu’s eyes lacked rationality, only the thirst for battle emerged.

His aura also emitted an intent to kill.

Becoming the target of such bloodthirst was a first for Kosuke, he felt a strong chill hit him.

“His breathing changed! It’s like he has a cold aura around him!”

“Now it really starts, be careful!”

“Really starts?”

Alice wasn’t lying.

Borudosu’s movements did not show mercy.

Kosuke stared at Borudosu, his body was somehow able to resist Borudosu's aura. The mental pressure on the other hand was too much for him.

But realizing his opponent didn't have any intention to stop, Kosuke concentrated in order to observe Borudosu's movements, making preparations to dodge.

Borudosu closed the distance between them in a speed that Horun couldn't perceive. He used every part of his body to attack; his knees, elbows, shoulders, everything. No feints, every attack was thrown to defeat Kosuke.

"Uhaaa!"

"Woah, that was dangerous!"

Kosuke rapidly dodged.

Although at first he was grazed by the attacks, Kosuke slowly increased his successful dodge rate and Borudosu eventually became unable to hit him.

Just like how Borudosu had changed his attitude earlier, Kosuke was forced to do the same in the heat of battle.

Regarding physical ability, Kosuke is better than Borudosu.

As long as he was focusing on dodging, Borudosu's movements were laid bare in front of him.

Kosuke couldn't dodge by prediction due to his lack of experience.

Borudosu was becoming more violent due to his «Beserker» title, causing his attacks to become disorganized. Kosuke was taking advantage of his dynamic vision to dodge attacks with ease.

After 10 minutes, Kosuke could avoid any attack from Borudosu.

His movements reflected his growth. Earlier he was making big movements to dodge, but now he was doing the absolute minimum to avoid Borudosu.

"Kosuke."

"What is it?"

He still had the energy to answer Alice's question.

“You can give him a good punch.”

“It shouldn’t be a problem, but…are you sure?”

“He has to lose consciousness otherwise he won’t stop in that state. Even if he gets some bruises, Horun can just heal him up. Don’t hesitate.”

“I’m not sure I can knock him out though.”

Kosuke knew his strength was great, but he didn’t know exactly how strong he was. He didn’t know if he had to hold back.”

“If you can’t do it, I will.”

Kosuke waited for an attack.

The opportunity came quickly, Borudosu’s movements were big and unwieldy and he lost his balance.

“Now!”

Kosuke took advantage of the time it took Borudosu to stand up and slapped at his stomach.

He used a slap since an inexperienced fighter could easily hurt their fist with a punch.

Borudosu’s body bent and flew 5 meters away, crashing to the ground.

Everyone was shocked speechless.

It was the first time any of them had seen a human fly like that.

“…This is…”

Borudosu seemed to be unconscious, he was laying on the ground and wasn’t moving.

“…is Borudosu alright?”

Kosuke said with a stiff expression while pointing at Borudosu.

Alice and Horun woke up upon hearing that.

Horun quickly went to Borudosu to check his wounds.

“Horun, how is he?”

“I can heal him, but the injury is more serious than we imagined.”

Part 5

Hajiko: Well just finished this part a few hours ago after I posted the last part and Sent it to KL to edit well it was done faster than I throught so we have a Double relase (well not really since a Day already passed a few Minute ago for me ^^) ~~Ah right, the translation Status is still not up to Date since I forgot to do it so forgive me (doing this post with my mobile phone and I can't update it That Way)~~ Well enough from me now Enjoy!

KL: Double chapter part today or whatever day you guys read this. Enjoy!

After Horun´s affirmation, Alice relaxed her serious expression.

"What is the state of his injuries?"

"His ribs, sternum and spine cracked. His abdominal muscles are also injured. His Internal Organs are also injured, but the injury is not severe. To be safe we should prepare something easy to digestible for dinner for him."

"It's my fault that I order Kosuke to attack him."

"… I'm the one who attacked him, I´m also at fault. This power is just too terrifying."

Kosuke`s voice was trembling.

Kosuke's heart was heavy as well his knees were trembling right now.

Although he didn't had the intention to kill, but the fact that he nearly taken the life of someone made him fear it in his heart.

Kosuke himself was being hit by Borudosu several times, but was unharmed.

Who would have thought that there was an overwhelming gap of strength.

"If you can maintain that attitude, then there is no need to fear that in the future you would misuse your power for violence."

Alice's words also implied that she "hopes that he can do it".

"… there is no need to mention using violence, I already hesitate if I should use this power or not."

“A hesitating attitude will let you in an unexpected situation that you won’t be able to act against it. You need to get used to this power, will it be beneficial or harmful will depend on how you use it. Don’t use it for wrong things, don’t get controlled by your own desire, and don’t let your power get over your head. You just need to follow those points, then it should be able to peacefully coexist with you, ok?”

“Just like weapons? Weapons have no feelings, good or evil it depends on how it is used. In the past I have heard such a phrase.”

“That’s just like that. I will continue to guide you on how to use your power. How you use it, you need to think about it yourself Kosuke.”

Alice picked up Borudosu which received treatment and moved into the house.

Seeing the small framed Alice carrying the big built Borudosu looked strange, but her strength was at D, so even carrying Borudosu wasn’t hard for her.

An hour later, Borudosu woke up.

Thanks to Horun´s treatment, his stomach only hurts now but it´s not that bad.

With an unsightly face he had a pondering expression, he thought for a while but still didn’t know why, then he looked up looking at Kosuke and Alice.

“In the end who stopped me?”

He asked Kosuke and Alice.

“Do you not remember?”

“As soon as I go berserk I lose my memory of it. So who stopped me?”

“I was the one that did it. I heavily hit your stomach.”

“Ah, so that’s why my stomach hurts.”

Borudosu suddenly nodded and rubbed his stomach.

“I’m sorry.”

“There is no need to apologize. I was already prepared to be hurt.”

Replied Borudosu smiling while waving lightly his hand to Kosuke.

“I also need to apologize.”

“Elder Sister too…?”

Seeing Alice apologizing, Borudosu was shocked.

“Your stomach is hurting is because I told Kosuke that there is no need to hold back and attack. I didn’t thought that his power was that strong. Fortunately, we let you use that title to strengthen your body.”

“Even elder sister has a bitter face while apologizing, then the injury which I got were that serious?”

Borudosu asked Horun who saved him.

“Your ribs and spine are cracked, your abdominal muscle and internal organs are injured. If we allow your body naturally recover, it would take 3 weeks till you can eat normally. After suffering such a serious injury, most people would already have died.”

After learning how serious the injuries which he suffered were, Borudosu couldn’t laugh anymore.

And he could understand why those two seriously apologize.

Borudosu´s constitution after strengthen are C+ at strength and C at endurance.

Even if it was for work, it was rare that he would get hurt while in the state of having that title active.

“A Dragonslayer really can’t be taken lightly.”

“How do you feel after actually fighting one?”

Borudosu tapped his forehead with his finger trying to remember.

“In my impression it was unbalanced. While his fighting style was a mess, but his power was terrifying. So even if he can´t predict the attacks of his opponent´s movement, he can still dodge with his eyes. Being tricked by feints is because he still lacks combat experience. As soon as he learns how to fight, I think he will be at between the top warriors in a blink of an eye.”

“That’s because his basic qualities are good. Borudosu, you should teach him

how to fight.”

“I’m good with it, but I can´t stay too long, ok? If I don’t complete my requests, I will become poor….”

(TL: Chinese translation says that he would die of being too poor) “It won’t take you much time. When he learned magic, he absorbed it quickly. You only need to teach him the basics, there is no need to worry about it later.”

“Anyway he just needs to find a way to land a punch then it is enough. Wait a moment I will need to first teach him how to hold a sword.”

Borudosu believes, that if a physical attack is used at a lower grade monster, Kosuke has the ability to one-shot kill it.

After determining that the talk of those two ended, Kosuke asked a question which was on his mind.

“What was that change with you while the battle?”

“You mean that? That is caused by the talent Fury. The effect is enhancing the strength and endurance by one rank and indiscriminating attacking. After suffering a certain degree of attack one will return to normal.”

“But Alice said that I needed to knock you unconscious, in order to stop it, right?”

“That’s because of the title. The title Berserker will enhance the effect of Fury. Strength and Endurance will also go up a Rank. In contrast, only suffering a bit of damage will not return one to normal.”

Part 6

Hajiko: Here is the last part of chapter 5. Also I'm away next week there will be no relase (I won't translate anything next week, if there is a relase then it was done this week) . Well that was all from me Enjoy!

KL: Got nothing to say. Enjoy!

"Your title is really difficult."

Borudosu nodded in approval to Kousuke.

He also thinks that his talent and title are not easy to use.

"So I usually use the title Survivor. Survivor can enhance strength and accelerate the speed of healing one's wound. It was quite troublesome to get that title. But I'm still suffering from that blow."

A title can be changed, but a talent cannot.

The Talent Fury will grow even more difficult, but one can learn how to control it.

So the training which Borudosu does is still lacking.

"So there are titles and talents which brings negative effects to the holders."

"The number of them are not that big."

After they were done talking Kosuke and Borudosu went outside, while Alice and Horun stayed in the house and passed the time.

Borudosu used an ax to cut nearby branches, then he removed the twigs and trimmed them to about the same length of a sword, he gave it to Kosuke.

Then after Alice gave the order, he began to teach the grip posture first and some sword postures, and told Kosuke to train with it.

While Borudosu watched his exercises, and also correcting where he did wrong.

Before using an ax, the weapon Borudosu used was a sword, so teaching the

basics of it isn’t hard for him.

As long as Kosuke learns the sword postures, Borudosu will teach him the next steps.

Before the sun went down, Kosuke learned all the sword postures which were taught by Borudosu correctly.

And Borudosu couldn’t find an error to correct.

After that one only need to practice the posture, seeing that Kosuke´s learning ability is that strong, Borudosu was both surprised and dumbfounded, that he wore a hollow laughter.

No matter what is taught he will learn it quickly, which made Kosuke happy.

While a uncomfortable feeling disappear with every repetition of the sword movement, as if he obtained it gradually by revision, filled with a sense that is similar to as if one can solve every riddle easily such sense of accomplishment, or a sense of fulfillment.

“Today we will stop here. If we continue I will lose my confidence.”

“I´m also scared by my learning ability. The blessing of a Dragonslayer is really is a cheat.”

This is because Kosuke knows that without that the title’s support, he couldn’t learn so fast, and his endurance couldn’t cope up with it, so he knows clearly how exaggerated that effect is.

“That´s right.”

After Kosuke put the stick which should be used tomorrow against the wall he went to wash his hands.

Then he brought the collected dry clothes back to the house and asked Alice for the Anti-Wrinkle magic.

Kosuke is wearing right now are the old clothes from Borudosu.

Borudosu wanted to throw away those old clothes which he couldn’t wear anymore, but Alice kept them all.

Seeing his own old clothes from a decade ago being brought out, Borudosu felt

nostalgic.

After the folded cloths were cleared up, Alice started to cook dinner.

Because of Borudosu, she planned to make some dishes which are easy to digest.

After dinner, they quietly spent their peaceful night.

When Borudosu was resting in his bedroom, someone knocked at his door.

The one who opened the door was Horun.

“How do you feel?”

“Ah, Horun? I’m already feeling better.”

“Just to be sure, I will check you again.”

Even if Borudosu felt that there was no serious problem, but he still obediently accepted the checkup, maybe by relying on the diagnosis of a doctor he can find out something abnormal which he couldn’t find himself.

After all he is making money with manual labor, so he’ll need to take care of his body.

Horun moved to a convenient location to examine him, he lifted up his shirt.

After confirming his body with magic that everything is normal, Horun told Borudosu the result.

“Thank you.”

“This is my job.”

After Borudosu set his cloths, he said:

“It´s great that you’re alright. I thought that we could never see each other again.”

“I´m also really happy to be alive. This is all thanks to Kosuke.”

“Your savior who broke your fate of dying? Maybe he is your fated one. Will you not consider to marry him?”

“Ah? I didn’t thought you were a romanticist?”

Being told by Horun or perhaps suddenly feeling embarrassed, Borudosu hide his expression as if he never said anything.

“There is nothing to be embarrassed about. My fated one huh… for me he is my savior.”

Recalling what happened in the last week, Horun knows that she has feeling of thanks and love for Kosuke, but it is not a romantically love.

Seeing the happy Kosuke she feels warm, and she also thinks that his smile is cute.

But that is not the feeling between man and woman, more like family or motherly love.

“I don’t have romantic feeling for him, but I don’t mean that I hate him.”

“After a hero rescue there is a mutual goodwill and then they will fall in love, this kind of situation is common.”

“How should I say it, before we arrived here Kosuke did not only showed his strength, but also his weak side and his behavior appropriate for his age. I’ve seen it all. So I think he is really cute. If I had a younger brother, then when we get along, then it should feel like this, I think.”

“Younger brother? Perhaps you think about him being family too much.”

“Probably.”

If in the future Kosuke shows his reliable side, Horun´s feeling might change into love.

Borudosu silently thought about it.

Chapter 06

TL: Hajiko ED: Xant; KL; Hajiko

The next day, Kosuke continued to learn magic, knowledge, and the ways of combat from the trio (Horun, Alice, and Borudosu). This lasted for about a week.

In that week, Kosuke learned the basics of this world which he needs to survive.

Since his ability is strong, coupled with his desire to learn, Kosuke absorbed it like a sponge and memorized all the knowledge he was taught.

Whether it was an attack magic, or one designed for everyday life, it was all learned by Kosuke.

His existing knowledge is also enough to solve problems which he will encounter.

There really isn’t a need to talk about fighting.

His strength can’t be compared to a fledgling adventurer.

According to Borudosu, even if he encountered 30 bandits, Kosuke should be able to beat them while talking and laughing.

Putting it bluntly, Kosuke’s strength is greater than Borudosu.

As Borudosu recalled how much time he spent training in the past, and how all of that could not compare to the strength of Kosuke’s title, he shed a tear.

In fact, Kosuke had gotten used to exchanging blows with Borudosu.

This new, matured Kosuke was just preparing to go on an adventure.

He decided to go to a city and make his living there for a month in order to check the results of his learning.

It was Alice’s order, and she thought that him staying in her small place and learning everything had no meaning to it, so he should experience some things

firsthand.

Kosuke also thought that what she said makes sense, so he agreed to it.

He was already curious about the cities in this world.

Of course he still harbored a bit of worry in his heart, but he wasn't going to allow that to have him be under the care of Alice forever.

From a certain point of view, letting Kosuke live alone is too dangerous. Alice thus arranged Borudosu to live with him.

Alice heard that Borudosu needed to return to the city soon, so she came up with the idea that she should send Kosuke out with him to experience the world.

"Kosuke, are you ready?"

"Even if you ask that, I only need to carry the bag which was prepared and packed by those two."

Kosuke answered while carrying a loaded backpack.

"That's true."

Borudosu smiled wryly.

Kosuke went from his temporary room to the living room.

Alice approached him with a few bags.

"In this bags there's enough for living expenses for a month, and in this bag is money to buy a sword. If you can earn the same amount as this first bag in a month, then no matter where you are you should be able to support yourself. The money for the sword, see it as my farewell present. Don't use it for anything else. Be careful not to lose it, ok?"

"OK."

Kosuke placed the bags safely into his backpack.

This money was lent to him.

Even though Alice wanted it paid back after a month, she wasn't forcing him to or taking any interest.

Her intention is that Kosuke will see that as a goal in that month and make an

effort to achieve it.

This amount of money is like a drop in the ocean for Alice, and the sword could have been given unconditionally. However, she lent this to Kosuke to set a goal for him.

“After that, you can live in the city if you want, but remember to come back and visit us. Do you understand?”

“Understood. Even so, I still think I would like to continue living here. That’s something that won’t change.”

In the eyes of Kosuke, this place is like his home(town).

Perhaps it’s because after coming to this world, this was the only place he could belong.

Naturally, he was also reluctant to give up cohabitation under the same roof as two beautiful women.

“There nothing wrong with it. When you want to come back I won’t turn you away.”

“I will look forward to the stories of your adventure when you come back. You have to be careful about your safety, and make sure you enjoy the world. You can’t follow strangers either, ok? And make sure to not waste money.”

Perhaps it was because she saw Kosuke as her younger brother, Horun was like a guardian and came off as overprotective.

Kosuke was confused by her reaction, but he was still grateful.

“Mh. Anyway I don’t have any clear objectives for this trip, so I can relax and enjoy myself.”

Under the watch of Alice and Horun, Kosuke, who was full of expectation and restlessness, embarked with Borudosu on their journey.

Their destination was the city St. Beira, which was about 3 days away by foot.

Although Kosuke just needed to grab Borudosu and use flying magic and it would take a short time, they decided to move on foot in order to experience how to travel and learn some camping skills.

Although Kosuke had camped and travelled to Alice's house, he didn't think it was enough or proper experience.

Even after the two figures disappeared into the forest, Alice and Horun still stared in that direction.

"I don't know what kind of experience will await him in the city."

"Presumably all kinds of things. I hope that he won't suffer or get into a difficult situation."

"Suffering may also be good for him. Learning early that the world is cruel is not a bad thing."

What both of them said were because they care about Kosuke.

Those words were mixed with tenderness and affection.

"As long he doesn't get into some big mess, I can always help him."

Hearing Alice, Horun showed a faint smile "Oya?"

"Are you worried about him?"

"I don't know why, but I can't just ignore him."

Alice herself was also puzzled by that.

"Don't think about it too much."

After muttering so, Alice and Horun went into the house.

///

The day after the departure.

Because of the help from someone with experience last night, Kosuke had a relaxed night.

He even had the energy to enjoy the night sky, and observe the stars.

However, something happened which forced the relaxed Kosuke tense up.

Kosuke has noticed a monster.

"It seems like there's something here."

"What is it, Kosuke?"

When the grass moved, Kosuke confirmed that something was abnormal.

“It seems that something moved over there…?”

“Where? Ah, it seems something is really there.”

Borudosu gazed at the point 20 meters away where Kosuke pointed at, and also noticed something abnormal.

Then something suddenly stood up in the grass and revealed itself. It looked like a monkey.

“That’s a Lutz Monkey.”

“Monkey?”

“Yes a Monster-Monkey. They are more violent than monkeys and are strong. Mostly considered low-ranked. They normally act in groups, but this one is probably alone because it wants to establish its own group or was driven off because it’s too old.”

Due to being taught at a high level by Alice since a young age, Borudosu’s knowledge of monsters was vast.

Intelligence D is not just for show.

Because Borudosu lacked interest in history and literature, Alice mainly taught him survival skills and practical things. He had very little academic knowledge.

Kosuke has yet to learn how to deal with monsters.

“It should have not noticed us by now. Pretending that we haven’t seen it yet is fine, so do you want to try challenging it Kosuke? Accumulating experience early on is good.”

“Challenge? You want me to fight it?”

Kosuke lifted the wooden stick which was made by Borudosu.

The stick could easily be used to chase off dogs, but would it hold up against a monster?

“That stick will do fine. Just hitting it once should be enough. Figuring out your strength against monsters early on is a good idea, though I guess you can beat it with one hit regardless. Using magic is forbidden, by the way.”

“Mh…beating it with one hit, you mean kill it, right?”

“Thats right, but you don’t need to think too much about it. If the monster is alive it will harm humanity.”

“Even so, my heart is still against it.”

“In order to get over that feeling, you need to get rid of the monkey.”

Borudosu pushed Kosuke, picked up a stone, and threw it at the Lutz Monkey.

The stone tore past the Lutz Monkey.

The monkey finally noticed the two of them, and approached with a ferocious aura.

The Lutz Monkey is covered in bright brown fur, only the head and tail are black. It has sharp fangs and a bigger body than normal monkeys, it’s a dangerous looking appearance.

“The strong rule the weak”, this is the rule of the jungle. This monkey represented that, so its features were justified.

Against stronger enemies one must not try to avoid fighting, but to challenge it with your comrades.

In a situation of battle, only after being forced into a corner this will happen.

In this case, for example, Lutz Monkey could choose escaping, since there is no need to fight.

The reason why it chose to fight the stronger Kosuke, is because Kosuke looked weaker than him.

Even if the opponent is stronger, if he can’t utilize his strength then even the weaker one has a chance to beat him.

The Lutz Monkey know that by instinct. Kosuke and the Lutz Monkeys was set, the problem was only Kosuke´s soft attitude.

Insisting that Kosuke should fight, Borudosu must also bear responsibility – saying it like that is not right.

After all, he only know Kosuke for a while and knowing his personality in this situation is difficult.

The Lutz Monkey fighting spirit was high.

While Kosuke´s fighting spirit wouldn't lit.

Kosuke lifted the stick to attack the Lutz Monkey.

The stick hit accurately the Lutz Monkey, thought the stick Kosuke felt the breaking of the collarbone thought the meat.

The stick couldn't withstand] the impact and broke into two, while the Lutz Monkey died blood soaked.

The blood sprayed at Kosuke cheeks and hands.

"Wua!"

Kosuke looked at the motionless Lutz Monkey, and then looked away.

The smell of blood came to his nose, then he suddenly had a feeling of nausea.

Kosuke put his hand before his mouth, fought against the feeling to vomit because of nausea and in order to endure it, as he muttered sorry.

The reason he feel guilty, is perhaps because the Lutz Monkey originally didn't do anything to provoke him, there was no need to kill it, just because of that mischievous mentality a life was taken.

In the eyes of Borudosu and the people of this world, such a mentality is no different as hypocrisy, but for Kosuke who grow up in a japanese family it feels like he had done something bad.

Borudosu didn´t understood Kosuke´s mood.

In this world no one would feel bad about killing a monster.

Just like how Kosuke can kill mosquitoes without problems.

Because Monster's have parts with can be sold for money, so compared to pest it still has a more valuable presence, even so, this world people will still kill.

Since if they show mercy, the one who will be unlucky will be her/himself, so there is no need for hesitation.

"Finished with one blow, just like I thought."

"…right."

Kosuke replied to Borudosu with an obviously depressed voice.

“Your mood is really bad.”

“Killing a living being above a certain size with a playful attitude, in the hometown of my world this kind of act will be punished, so I have a feeling like I did something bad.”

“You need to get used to this feeling by yourself.”

“Wanting me to get used to killing? I don’t want to.”

“Getting used to killing is not the only thing, those kind of monster tend to cause harm to human. So there is no need to feel guilt, you also need to get used to this. Betting a monster will be praised, therefore no one will punish you.”

“If.. it was an ugly monster, then maybe I wouldn’t feel cranky.”

Kosuke tried to find an excuse for himself.

“There are those very ugly monsters, but I still can only advise you to get used to it quickly.”

“… when in Rome do as the Romans do. I will give my best.”

After all, both sides have different moral value, if he continue to insist on his own common sense and not adjust, then by living here will only let him be perceived as a freak.

Although Kosuke hope´s that he can return to his world one day, but he doesn’t want to have a painful life before he returns.

So he wants to change his concept/way of thought.

“What does it means?”

“It´s a saying, which means if one follows the local custom, live will be more enjoyable.”

“I see.”

Borudosu who had the impression of hearing a similar proverbial tried hard to remember it, then Kosuke asked how to take care of/dispose the Lutz Monkey.

“What deal with? This guy doesn’t have anything which can be skinned off,

ok?”

“I dont mean it like that, I mean leaving it here just like that and not care for it is that ok? Won’t it cause trouble for other who will pass here?”

“So its this question. Letting it like that is also ok. Anyway later there will be wolves, wild dogs or other carnivorous beast coming and drag off it. If you want you can drag it off to the side of the road.”

Wanting is only wanting, but Kosuke don’t want to touch it and decided to let it on the road.

After they departed from there, Kosuke was curious about “skinning off” what Borudosu said.

“What you said before about skinning off does some monster have body parts which have value?”

“Yes, often there are requests which asks for people to get a certain part of a monster.”

Kosuke remembered a hunting MMORPG game.

Kosuke never played a game where he must go online, but he normally also has interest in video games, so he occasionally get information about this kind of games.

(I have never thought that I would actually hunt in real life. Life is really constantly changing.) (TL: Thought of our MC)

Kosuke shook his head, due to an incredible life experience and laughed.

“What is? Having such a hollow laugh.”

“It´s nothing.”

The two of them continued their journey.

Before they arrived at St. Beira, the two of them again encountered a monster.

This time they encountered a Killing Dog a dog kind of monster, under the fluffy fur there were several horns hidden.

And they meet four at once.

(TN: someone a better Idea for the monster name 伐犬)

This time Kosuke also fought them alone. Borudosu said it is a good opportunity to experience combat with enemies.

The use of magic is still prohibited.

As weapon just like the previously broken stick, was a twig which was broke off by Borudosu used as stick.

Kosuke obeyed Borudosu´s suggestions and ended the battle safely.

On his body weren't any wounds.

Though he was rammed three times, but with his strong body, it doesn't even itch.

After the battle, Borudosu told him several points which he should change.

That if under the same circumstances, most of the people would have already needed to go to the doctor for sewing a few stitches, Kosuke again understood how extraordinary his body was.

Although he still felt guilty, but compared to when he killed the Lutz Monkey it wasn´t much.

After having the experience of killing, one can feel that the shock for the heart became smaller.

Thinking that if he continue to kill he will get used to it, Kosuke had mixed feeling about that.

This battle also had an unexpected income.

The horns of the Killing Dog doesn't have a high value, but it still has a commercial value.

The 13 Horn´s which was torn off where putted into Kosuke´s bag.

This small money is not even enough for Borudosu to fill his stomach.

Incidentally, this is enough for one person's food cost for two days.

Beside the two battles, the journey was peaceful, the two of them arrived early in St. Beira.

This is because the two of them were energetic, so their travel speed didn't drop. St. Beira´s main road was paved with stones, the rest of the ground was mud, the buildings were made of red bricks and wood as base, the view was western styled.

The Population was about 50 thousand.

This was not like the cities which Kosuke knew, around it there were 3 meters high stone walls which surrendered the city, in order to protect from monster attacks.

The biggest house in this city was western downtown.

This city's aristocracy lived there.

At the entrance of the city where guards.

Seeing Borudosu, the guards went ahead and greeted him like meeting an old friend.

The eyes of the guard fell on Kosuke, Borudosu explained that he was his friend.

The guard accepted that simple explanation, and showed a welcoming smile to Kosuke.

After Kosuke bowed to them, he went into the city with Borudosu.

"This is St. Beira, which is also my base of operation. Although it cannot be compared to Ricardo in prosperity, but it has a relaxing atmosphere."

"Does it has any specialties?"

"…there is none. However, cities with specialties are rare, so it's ordinary."

"That's right."

"Ok, where should we go first… right, let's first go buy you a sword. This way."

Under Borudosu´s leadership, Kosuke went to the weapon shop which Borudosu frequently visited.

Before they arrived at their destination, they meet several people who greeted Borudosu.

(TL: Well aren’t you famous)

On the sign which Kosuke couldn’t read, were the words weapon store written on it.

Perhaps they were at work, in the house next to the store one could hear the sound of beating metal.

At the Counter there was a girl who was about 20 years old was writing on paper, who looked up when the sound of customer coming in attracted her attention.

Her blond hair which was bound together in order to do things easier also swayed gently.

Recognizing that the customer is Borudosu the young woman/lady approached them with a bright smile.

“Welcome!”

“Hello.”

“I haven’t seen you these days in the city, where did you go?”

“I went to the house of my elder sister.”

“I see. What do you need today? Does it has to do anything with the young boy behind you?”

“You’re right.”

Borudosu pushed Kosuke who was looking at the store curiously.

“This guy’s name is Watase Kosuke, he is just like my brother now. Today we are here to buy a sword for him. It doesn’t matter if it isn’t that sharp, I want one which is durable. Can you help to pick one which is acceptable in terms of the quality?”

Even if the blade is blunt, as long one put in enough strength one can also cut with it, with this kind of thought, Borudosu also chose durable weapons and not sharp ones.

“Uh. Pleased to meet you.”

“I´m Clarice. Hello. Can you come over here please?”

Clarice waved to Kosuke.

Kosuke stepped forward obediently.

“Let me see your hand.”

“Both hands?”

“Please show me your dominant hand.”

Clarice carefully checked Kosuke´s outstretched hand.

After touching the palm, she poked his arm to feel his muscles with her index finger.

What can be checked by this action? Was what Kosuke thought.

While Clarice stared at Kosuke´s hand, she spoke:

“You started to use a sword not long ago, right?”

“Can it be seen?”

“Yes. Anyway, I´m also a blacksmith. Over the years I have already seen a lot adventurers, compared to their hands yours is quite tender. You can withdraw your hand now.”

Clarice brought from the store shelves three swords.

“According to your needs, the ones which suits Kosuke in size, will be those three. The prices are also cost-effective.”

“Which one is the heaviest?”

“It’s that one.”

Clarice immediately pointed at the right sword, to Borudosu´s question. Borudosu picked up that sword and handed it to Kosuke.

“Pull it out.”

Kosuke pulled the sword out of its sheath and took a stance.

He didn’t forget what he learned, he keep a very stable posture.

From Kosuke´s expression one could see that he was excited, from holding a sword for the first time.

“Is the weight ok?”

“No problem. It is ultra-light. I think.”

Having that powerful strength, a mere sword is nothing.

So Borudosu choose the heaviest one.

As if intending to strengthen the way of destructiveness.

“I just asked before, but is this kid really a beginner?”

“That’s right. It hasn’t even been a month since he started to practice sword arts. Today should be the first time he is holding a real sword.”

“Yes. Before I had used once a knife, but this is the first time holding a sword.”

(TL: Made a mistake in one of the past chapters since 劈柴刀= cutting knife/ firewood knife I translated it as axe but it seems like more like a knife) “That’s a bit hard to believe. Such a beautiful posture, is not something an ordinary person can do.”

(TL: Well he is a Dragonslayer so not Ordinary.)

“It is because I learn quite fast.”

“That’s abnormal.”

“Yup.”

Seeing Kosuke talking like it has nothing to do with himself, Clarice was puzzled.

“Is this the so-called genius?”

“Maybe.”

Because there is no way to explain her about the Dragonslayer, when she think it was a genius then it was so.

Anyway being a genius is not much different, thought Borudosu and Kosuke.

After paying the money, the sword became Kosuke’s.

Perhaps she was hoping that Kosuke will become a regular customer in the future, she also presented him a sword belt.

The increase in weight at his waist is not a burden for Kosuke, but it is still unfamiliar.

Although he already desired a sword in the past, but he still couldn’t believe himself that he can practice with a sword now.

“Ok, let´s go.”

“So fast? What about armor?”

“Later we still need to visit the guild and go back to the hotel. We can talk next time about the amour. I don’t have any money anymore.”

After the fight with the dogs Kosuke confirmed that there are no problems even if he doesn’t have any amour.

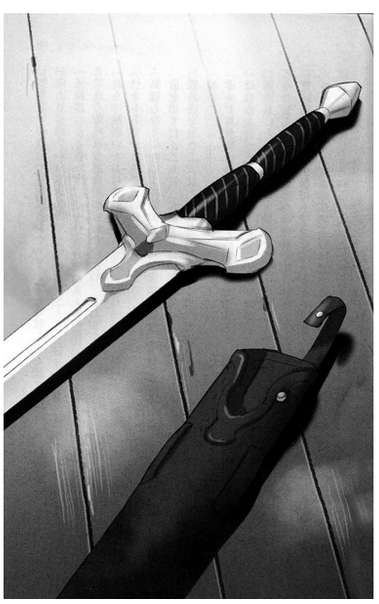
If one want to fight with higher level monsters, having no armor means one’s safety is not guaranteed.

Apart from a particular place, one won’t meet a tough monster here.

Only if some unexpected situation occurs then it will be that.

Anyway this kind of situation don’t just occur any few days, so Borudosu decided that buying armor can wait.

“Since you said so, there is no need to worry. But don’t let him do something stupid. He should just be a newbie, right?”



Saying that is because Clarice didn’t knew about Kosuke, but seeing her being worried about the Dragonslayer, Borudosu was speechless.

“Don’t worry he is even stronger than me.”

“You really love to joke. No matter how I look I don’t believe that beansprout can beat you a berserker. In short we will talk about the armor next time. OK, then see you.”

(TL: well it wasn’t literary beansprout but more like small weak built boy, but I just couldn’t help but to write it like that -> D.Gray-man Allen Walker) “Uh. Then good luck with your smiting.”

“Thank you for the sword belt.”

“You don’t need to thank me. We basically will always give it away for free for new customers.”

Clarice said with an energetic voice “Thanks for your business” to the two.

The two who left the weapon store went to their destination, the guild from which every adventurer would depart from.

Borudosu described how it is organized while they were walking, which wasn’t much different as what Kosuke thought.

For Adventurer, the guild is a place where they can get jobs and information’s.

For others, the guild is a place where they can get their problems solved.

Although there is no restriction about requests for adventurers, however if one doesn’t have the strength to solve it, they will stop them from it.

Sometimes the guild will entrust the request to one who is suited for it.

If such a situation arise the guild will take the initiative to raise the reward.

If one doesn’t have the considerable strength and reputation, the guild will not give out such a request to them.

A large cafe appeared before the two when they were moving. This was the goal from Borudosu, the Adventurer Guild.

This store was originally opened as a Bar, but because the previous owner loathed drunkards, he changed the business.

After Kosuke who was nervous and Borudosu entered the Adventurer Guild, they attracted the attention of everyone but soon they looked away.

Kosuke stepped back because of the pressure which came from their stares.

“Why did everyone turned to look at us?”

“It is because I’m quite famous here. Seeing you at the side of me they felt curious, but after finding out that there is nothing about you to boast, they immediately looked away. I guess that should be it.”

Borudosu guessed completely right.

If the newcomer is someone strong, then their jobs will be reduced.

In other words, it will affect their revenue.

After checking if Kosuke is worth to form a party with, they judged that there is no worth to work with him.

(TL: If they knew about his POWER xD)

Kosukes quality and appearance, didn’t fit together.

No one had the vision to see Kosuke´s true strength, which leaded to that result.

Borudosu brought Kosuke who was nodding to the registration counter.

At the counter there was a 25-year-old woman and a 15 years old girl.

Both of them wore the guild uniform but the girl looked like a newcomer.

The adult female staff had shoulder long dark green hair, black eyes and under it a mole, she is a beauty.

The girl had short cut blond hair, orange-yellow big eyes which are cute.

But Kousuke felt that there was something which destroyed the cuteness of that girl.

The Girl widened her eyes after seeing Kosuke watching her.

Kosuke was puzzled, not understanding why she had such a response.

Therefore, after carefully looking at the face of the girl, Kosuke discovered that the eye color from both eyes aren’t the same.

But having different eyes color´s in a different world could be no big deal, so he didn’t pursue that.

“Welcome back, Mister Borudosu.”

The Adult female bowed.

“Hello. Can you register that boy?”

“Naturally, than please fill out this paper…”

“Se..Se..Sempai!”

Before the responsible staff finished talking, she was interrupted by the girl.

Borudosu hadn’t seen that girl before, so he guessed that she should be a new staff member.

“What is?”

“Can you leave the work for registration to me?”

“Yes you can, but why so suddenly? Seeing that you’re especially motivated? Forget it. Don’t make a mistake. Sorry for the delay. Because it goes like that, now it will be taken over by her. Since she is still new, she might not be comprehensive enough. If there was something which offered you, please search for me or another staff member.”

“Saying not comprehensive enough and offering, I feel quite worried.”

After listening to Kosuke the staff member smiled first and then accessed: “Because she is quite a ditz/klutz.”

Seeing that after she came here working she frequently made mistake.

But she shouldn’t be a bad person.

Although the adult staff member said ditz/klutz, but one can not hear out a harsh meaning.

“You still know how it is done?”

“Although I’m not confidence, but I have a memo, so there is no problem.”

The Girl took out a Memo out of her chest pocket.

“Don’t think that if you have a Memo there won’t be a mistake. Normally you need to memorize the method. But as long as it won’t be delayed, I need to look away from it. Since you wanted to take care of it, I will let you take care of it.”

“Yes.”

After she stared at the girl she bowed to Kosuke and Borudosu and moved back to her place to handle other works.

“Then I Viare will take care of the registration, ouch.”

She bit her tongue.

Will it really be OK?

Kosuke and Borudosu had a hint of anxiety.

Viare opened teary eyed her memo, confirming the steps.

“Then please fill out your Information on this paper.”

After receiving the paper and charcoal Kosuke who wanted to write with japanese stopped.

“I can’t read and write this language.”

“Eh!”

Viare let out a surprised expression.

Kosuke was confused, not knowing why she is making a fuss about it.

Borudosu also knows that not knowing how to read and write is nothing rare, so he didn’t understand why Viare was so surprised.

“Is there a need to be such surprised? Can it be that not knowing how to read and write is a strange thing?”

If that was the case, Alice and Horun would have taught him how to read and write.

Kosuke looked at Borudosu for advice, he shook his head.

“N, no, but I didn’t expect that you couldn’t read and write.”

“That is strange. You shouldn’t know me right? This should be the first time we meet.”

“Thats right, but my Talent told me that you’re a the Dragon–.”

“Thats enough. We know it already.”

Borudosu reacted fast and used his hand to block Viare´s mouth.

If Alice was present she would have praised his decision.

After that Kosuke asked Borudosu about this, he realized that he had such a foreboding, and could react in such a timely manner.

“Keep this matter confidential, ok?”

Borudosu exposed an expression as if he had met a strong monster.

That expression terrified Viare, and she nodded to that with tears in her eyes.

Viare whose mouth was blocked didn’t understand why she was treated like that.

She just wanted to tell him his Title which she saw.

From her past work experience, each guest were happy when she did that, therefore she hasn’t been reprimanded.

For Viare, a resounding Title is a honor, not something which need to be kept secret.

This was the first time she had met someone who doesn’t want his Title be exposed.

“Why”, this word constantly resounded in her mind. Borudosu´s graze where fixed onto Viares eyes, after judging that she didn’t lie he released her.

“Did something happened?”

The staff who was taking care of the documents on the other table inquired.

The other Adventurers also casted their attention to them.

“Nothing, it’s just that this girl was clumsy, so I was shocked.”

“Is that so?”

After saying that she left again.

The other Adventures also looked away.

This was a precious moment which was caused by the confusion.

“Could it be that it nearly came out?”

After understanding the situation Kosuke asked Borudosu.

“Ehm, it seems that this little girl has a talent which let her see the Title of others.”

“Then it’s completely known.”

Anxiety flared up in Kosuke, hiding the Title shouldn’t be that hard.

“It’s faster than I thought. Who knew that in right after arriving in this town we will met someone like that. Later we need to talk with her so that she will keep it a secret.”

Being stared at by Borudosu, Viare let out a soft groan.

Hearing the word Negotiation sounded like a threat to her.

“Let’s talk about this later. We should first finish the registration procedure.”

“I can’t write, so can I trouble you to do it?”

“Yes, thats ok. Uhm… can you tell me your Name please!”

Thinking that a slight mistake may cost her life, Viare talked formally.

She asked something, Kosuke answered.

Hearing a question which doesn´t need to be answered, then Borudosu will immediately interrupt it.

Every time Borudosu interrupted, Weiyales body shuddered fearing she did something wrong.

If she met some sadistic people they would be quite happy.

After the filing of information was finished, Viare printed the mark which means that one has joined the Association on the card and returned it to Kosuke, then she let out a month full of air.

As if she had finished a big project.

“Next, next I will explain how to accept requests.”

“Ah, this can be omitted. I have already explained that to him. You can explain him the part of transferring the request and the rewards.”

“Understood. Then I will explain what is transferring a request. Sometimes one

will receive a request which is beyond one's capacity or is judged as undesirable and is not in the personal areas of expertise. When such a situation arise you need to report it to the guild, we will handle the task of transferring the request. After transferring, one doesn't have the right to receive a reward anymore. And one must report everything which you found out about that request. Depending on the situation, sometimes you need to pay a penalty."

"Do you have any questions about that?", inquired Viare, after confirming Kosuke´s nodded she continued to explain.

"Next I will explain the rewards. The reward will always be written on the commission. On the Commission the fee of five percent is already deducted. So please don't come to us yelling if the amount which is written and the amount the requester told you is not the same. But if the difference is more that five percent, than please come to us. In addition, for requests which the guild approached you we won't charge a single fee. This is also a matter of course."

(TL: Well 5% is not much, compared to a certain Pokemon Game with about 90% -.-') Viare talked up to where her notes were.

"The client will sometimes not tell everything to the Guild, which indicates that the other side is in an awkward situation, so you need to be careful. Sometimes it can be because they can not pay the right sum of reward, the reward indicates if someone will take the request. If you think it is suspicious you can directly refuse to do it."

Borudosu supplemented to what Viare said.

"Thats right. If one take a request, adventurer need to take responsibility for it, no matter what happens the Guild will not intervene. Be sure to pay attention to it. With this the Description is over."

Viare let out an expression like she finally finished something.

"Was this it?"

"Thats right. Next we just need to seal up this girls mouth."

"Ah! I forgot that…"

Viare was completely concentrated on the job that she forgot the danger.

Then she slowly slide from her chair, with a teary expression.

“When will your work end?”

“In about an hour my work will end.”

“Then we will meet in an hour in the Ouliyasi Cafe. Do you know that place?”

“I´m a regular there.”

Seeing her appearance Kosuke felt sympathy, but in order to safeguard himself she need to keep the secret.

He decided as long as she keep it a secret, he will invite her to eat something.

After they where done will the registration the two of them spent their time outside(streets).

While at it they needed to sell the drops of the Killing Dog.

The one who was in charge of negotiation was Borudosu.

Since Kosuke never had the experience of selling, so Borudosu demonstrated it to him.

On one side there is the merchant who is trying to buy at a low price, on the other side is Borudosu who is trying to sell it at the market price, the result of it was a victory for Borudosu.

As long as one have a good relationship with the merchant, they can avoid the trouble of negotiations, after Borudosu gave the money to Kosuke he told him that.

Even though it’s still 30 minutes till the agreed time, they decided to go to the cafe, because they had nothing to do.

Kosuke asked Borudosu to read the menu for him he ordered a tangerine custard pie, since Borudosu didn’t like sweets he ordered a ham sandwich and coffee.

Before the dishes arrived Kosuke asked Borudosu to read the menu again in order to learn the words.

After he memorized the most of the menu, the waiter came with the dishes.

On a plump pie there was the sweet custard cream and marmelade as orange slices.

After picking it up to bit it, a liqueur aroma went into his nostrils.

After eating and drinking his fill Kosuke found Viare walking in, so he rose his hand.

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Part 1

Hajiko: First post after my Trip well it was nice since its been a while where I had nothing to do and could just relax and have fun. Well after I got back I started translating this part and got it done quite fast so here you go. Enjoy.

Xant: My sleepy levels and busy levels are overwhelming. Will post part 2 when I am finished which won't be too much longer.

The next day, Kosuke continued to learn magic, knowledge, and the ways of combat from the trio (Horun, Alice, and Borudosu). This lasted for about a week.

In that week, Kosuke learned the basics of this world which he needs to survive.

Since his ability is strong, coupled with his desire to learn, Kosuke absorbed it like a sponge and memorized all the knowledge he was taught.

Whether it was an attack magic, or one designed for everyday life, it was all learned by Kosuke.

His existing knowledge is also enough to solve problems which he will encounter.

There really isn't a need to talk about fighting.

His strength can't be compared to a fledgling adventurer.

According to Borudosu, even if he encountered 30 bandits, Kosuke should be able to beat them while talking and laughing.

Putting it bluntly, Kosuke's strength is greater than Borudosu.

As Borudosu recalled how much time he spent training in the past, and how all of that could not compare to the strength of Kosuke's title, he shed a tear.

In fact, Kosuke had gotten used to exchanging blows with Borudosu.

This new, matured Kosuke was just preparing to go on an adventure.

He decided to go to a city and make his living there for a month in order to check the results of his learning.

It was Alice's order, and she thought that him staying in her small place and learning everything had no meaning to it, so he should experience some things firsthand.

Kosuke also thought that what she said makes sense, so he agreed to it.

He was already curious about the cities in this world.

Of course he still harbored a bit of worry in his heart, but he wasn't going to allow that to have him be under the care of Alice forever.

From a certain point of view, letting Kosuke live alone is too dangerous. Alice thus arranged Borudosu to live with him.

Alice heard that Borudosu needed to return to the city soon, so she came up with the idea that she should send Kosuke out with him to experience the world.

"Kosuke, are you ready?"

"Even if you ask that, I only need to carry the bag which was prepared and packed by those two."

Kosuke answered while carrying a loaded backpack.

"That's true."

Borudosu smiled wryly.

Kosuke went from his temporary room to the living room.

Alice approached him with a few bags.

"In this bags there's enough for living expenses for a month, and in this bag is money to buy a sword. If you can earn the same amount as this first bag in a month, then no matter where you are you should be able to support yourself. The money for the sword, see it as my farewell present. Don't use it for anything else. Be careful not to lose it, ok?"

"OK."

Kosuke placed the bags safely into his backpack.

This money was lent to him.

Even though Alice wanted it paid back after a month, she wasn't forcing him to or taking any interest.

Her intention is that Kosuke will see that as a goal in that month and make an effort to achieve it.

This amount of money is like a drop in the ocean for Alice, and the sword could have been given unconditionally. However, she lent this to Kosuke to set a goal for him.

"After that, you can live in the city if you want, but remember to come back and visit us. Do you understand?"

"Understood. Even so, I still think I would like to continue living here. That's something that won't change."

In the eyes of Kosuke, this place is like his home(town).

Perhaps it's because after coming to this world, this was the only place he could belong.

Naturally, he was also reluctant to give up cohabitation under the same roof as two beautiful women.

"There nothing wrong with it. When you want to come back I won't turn you away."

"I will look forward to the stories of your adventure when you come back. You have to be careful about your safety, and make sure you enjoy the world. You can't follow strangers either, ok? And make sure to not waste money."

Perhaps it was because she saw Kosuke as her younger brother, Horun was like a guardian and came off as overprotective.

Kosuke was confused by her reaction, but he was still grateful.

"Mh. Anyway I don't have any clear objectives for this trip, so I can relax and enjoy myself."

Under the watch of Alice and Horun, Kosuke, who was full of expectation and restlessness, embarked with Borudosu on their journey.

Their destination was the city St. Beira, which was about 3 days away by foot.

Although Kosuke just needed to grab Borudosu and use flying magic and it would take a short time, they decided to move on foot in order to experience how to travel and learn some camping skills.

Although Kosuke had camped and travelled to Alice's house, he didn't think it was enough or proper experience.

Even after the two figures disappeared into the forest, Alice and Horun still stared in that direction.

"I don't know what kind of experience will await him in the city."

"Presumably all kinds of things. I hope that he won't suffer or get into a difficult situation."

"Suffering may also be good for him. Learning early that the world is cruel is not a bad thing."

What both of them said were because they care about Kosuke.

Those words were mixed with tenderness and affection.

"As long he doesn't get into some big mess, I can always help him."

Hearing Alice, Horun showed a faint smile "Oya?"

"Are you worried about him?"

"I don't know why, but I can't just ignore him."

Alice herself was also puzzled by that.

"Don't think about it too much."

After muttering so, Alice and Horun went into the house.

///

The day after the departure.

Because of the help from someone with experience last night, Kosuke had a relaxed night.

He even had the energy to enjoy the night sky, and observe the stars.

However, something happened which forced the relaxed Kosuke tense up.

Kosuke has noticed a monster.

“It seems like there’s something here.”

“What is it, Kosuke?”

When the grass moved, Kosuke confirmed that something was abnormal.

“It seems that something moved over there…?”

“Where? Ah, it seems something is really there.”

Borudosu gazed at the point 20 meters away where Kosuke pointed at, and also noticed something abnormal.

Then something suddenly stood up in the grass and revealed itself. It looked like a monkey.

“That’s a Lutz Monkey.”

“Monkey?”

“Yes a Monster-Monkey. They are more violent than monkeys and are strong. Mostly considered low-ranked. They normally act in groups, but this one is probably alone because it wants to establish its own group or was driven off because it’s too old.”

Due to being taught at a high level by Alice since a young age, Borudosu’s knowledge of monsters was vast.

Intelligence D is not just for show.

Because Borudosu lacked interest in history and literature, Alice mainly taught him survival skills and practical things. He had very little academic knowledge.

Kosuke has yet to learn how to deal with monsters.

“It should have not noticed us by now. Pretending that we haven’t seen it yet is fine, so do you want to try challenging it Kosuke? Accumulating experience early on is good.”

“Challenge? You want me to fight it?”

Kosuke lifted the wooden stick which was made by Borudosu.

The stick could easily be used to chase off dogs, but would it hold up against a monster?

“That stick will do fine. Just hitting it once should be enough. Figuring out your strength against monsters early on is a good idea, though I guess you can beat it with one hit regardless. Using magic is forbidden, by the way.”

“Mh…beating it with one hit, you mean kill it, right?”

Part 2

Hajiko: Here is the next part since it seems like Xant is a bit busy with RL, this part was pushed quite back. This part was edited by me and a certain reader. So Enjoy.

“Thats right, but you don’t need to think too much about it. If the monster is alive it will harm humanity.”

“Even so, my heart is still against it.”

“In order to get over that feeling, you need to get rid of the monkey.”

Borudosu pushed Kosuke, picked up a stone, and threw it at the Lutz Monkey.

The stone tore past the Lutz Monkey.

The monkey finally noticed the two of them, and approached with a ferocious aura.

The Lutz Monkey is covered in bright brown fur, only the head and tail are black. It has sharp fangs and a bigger body than normal monkeys, it’s a dangerous looking appearance.

“The strong rule the weak”, this is the rule of the jungle. This monkey represented that, so its features were justified.

Against stronger enemies one must not try to avoid fighting, but to challenge it with your comrades.

In a situation of battle, only after being forced into a corner this will happen.

In this case, for example, Lutz Monkey could choose escaping, since there is no need to fight.

The reason why it chose to fight the stronger Kosuke, is because Kosuke looked weaker than him.

Even if the opponent is stronger, if he can’t utilize his strength then even the weaker one has a chance to beat him.

The Lutz Monkey know that by instinct. Kosuke and the Lutz Monkeys was set, the problem was only Kosuke´s soft attitude.

Insisting that Kosuke should fight, Borudosu must also bear responsibility – saying it like that is not right.

After all, he only know Kosuke for a while and knowing his personality in this situation is difficult.

The Lutz Monkey fighting spirit was high.

While Kosuke´s fighting spirit wouldn't lit.

Kosuke lifted the stick to attack the Lutz Monkey.

The stick hit accurately the Lutz Monkey, thought the stick Kosuke felt the breaking of the collarbone thought the meat.

The stick couldn't withstand] the impact and broke into two, while the Lutz Monkey died blood soaked.

The blood sprayed at Kosuke cheeks and hands.

"Wua!"

Kosuke looked at the motionless Lutz Monkey, and then looked away.

The smell of blood came to his nose, then he suddenly had a feeling of nausea.

Kosuke put his hand before his mouth, fought against the feeling to vomit because of nausea and in order to endure it, as he muttered sorry.

The reason he feel guilty, is perhaps because the Lutz Monkey originally didn't do anything to provoke him, there was no need to kill it, just because of that mischievous mentality a life was taken.

In the eyes of Borudosu and the people of this world, such a mentality is no different as hypocrisy, but for Kosuke who grow up in a japanese family it feels like he had done something bad.

Borudosu didn´t understood Kosuke´s mood.

In this world no one would feel bad about killing a monster.

Just like how Kosuke can kill mosquitoes without problems.

Because Monster’s have parts with can be sold for money, so compared to pest it still has a more valuable presence, even so, this world people will still kill.

Since if they show mercy, the one who will be unlucky will be her/himself, so there is no need for hesitation.

“Finished with one blow, just like I thought.”

“…right.”

Kosuke replied to Borudosu with an obviously depressed voice.

“Your mood is really bad.”

“Killing a living being above a certain size with a playful attitude, in the hometown of my world this kind of act will be punished, so I have a feeling like I did something bad.”

“You need to get used to this feeling by yourself.”

“Wanting me to get used to killing? I don’t want to.”

“Getting used to killing is not the only thing, those kind of monster tend to cause harm to human. So there is no need to feel guilt, you also need to get used to this. Betting a monster will be praised, therefore no one will punish you.”

“If.. it was an ugly monster, then maybe I wouldn’t feel cranky.”

Kosuke tried to find an excuse for himself.

“There are those very ugly monsters, but I still can only advise you to get used to it quickly.”

“… when in Rome do as the Romans do. I will give my best.”

After all, both sides have different moral value, if he continue to insist on his own common sense and not adjust, then by living here will only let him be perceived as a freak.

Although Kosuke hope´s that he can return to his world one day, but he doesn’t want to have a painful life before he returns.

So he wants to change his concept/way of thought.

“What does it means?”

“It´s a saying, which means if one follows the local custom, live will be more enjoyable.”

“I see.”

Borudosu who had the impression of hearing a similar proverbial tried hard to remember it, then Kosuke asked how to take care of/dispose the Lutz Monkey.

“What deal with? This guy doesn’t have anything which can be skinned off, ok?”

“I dont mean it like that, I mean leaving it here just like that and not care for it is that ok? Won’t it cause trouble for other who will pass here?”

“So its this question. Letting it like that is also ok. Anyway later there will be wolves, wild dogs or other carnivorous beast coming and drag off it. If you want you can drag it off to the side of the road.”

Wanting is only wanting, but Kosuke don’t want to touch it and decided to let it on the road.

After they departed from there, Kosuke was curious about “skinning off” what Borudosu said.

“What you said before about skinning off does some monster have body parts which have value?”

“Yes, often there are requests which asks for people to get a certain part of a monster.”

Kosuke remembered a hunting MMORPG game.

Kosuke never played a game where he must go online, but he normally also has interest in video games, so he occasionally get information about this kind of games.

(I have never thought that I would actually hunt in real life. Life is really constantly changing.) (TL: Thought of our MC)

Kosuke shook his head, due to an incredible life experience and laughed.

“What is? Having such a hollow laugh.”

“It´s nothing.”

The two of them continued their journey.

Before they arrived at St. Beira, the two of them again encountered a monster.

This time they encountered a Killing Dog a dog kind of monster, under the fluffy fur there were several horns hidden.

And they meet four at once.

(TN: someone a better Idea for the monster name 伐犬)

This time Kosuke also fought them alone. Borudosu said it is a good opportunity to experience combat with enemies.

The use of magic is still prohibited.

As weapon just like the previously broken stick, was a twig which was broke off by Borudosu used as stick.

Kosuke obeyed Borudosu´s suggestions and ended the battle safely.

On his body weren't any wounds.

Though he was rammed three times, but with his strong body, it doesn't even itch.

After the battle, Borudosu told him several points which he should change.

That if under the same circumstances, most of the people would have already needed to go to the doctor for sewing a few stitches, Kosuke again understood how extraordinary his body was.

Although he still felt guilty, but compared to when he killed the Lutz Monkey it wasn´t much.

After having the experience of killing, one can feel that the shock for the heart became smaller.

Thinking that if he continue to kill he will get used to it, Kosuke had mixed feeling about that.

This battle also had an unexpected income.

The horns of the Killing Dog doesn't have a high value, but it still has a commercial value.

The 13 Horn´s which was torn off where putted into Kosuke´s bag.

This small money is not even enough for Borudosu to fill his stomach.

Incidentally, this is enough for one person’s food cost for two days.

Beside the two battles, the journey was peaceful, the two of them arrived early in St. Beira.

This is because the two of them were energetic, so their travel speed didn’t drop. St. Beira´s main road was paved with stones, the rest of the ground was mud, the buildings were made of red bricks and wood as base, the view was western styled.

The Population was about 50 thousand.

This was not like the cities which Kosuke knew, around it there were 3 meters high stone walls which surrendered the city, in order to protect from monster attacks.

The biggest house in this city was western downtown.

This city’s aristocracy lived there.

At the entrance of the city where guards.

Seeing Borudosu, the guards went ahead and greeted him like meeting an old friend.

The eyes of the guard fell on Kosuke, Borudosu explained that he was his friend.

The guard accepted that simple explanation, and showed a welcoming smile to Kosuke.

Part 3

Hajiko: Here is the 3rd part of chapter 6 this was edited by KL.

Also I have a sad news with the awaking of Lazy9 and a busy RL Xant will leave us, thank you Xant for helping us with your free time to edit for us and thank you for helping me as Editor when I just started as translator.

So enough with the sad news

Enjoy.

After Kosuke bowed to them, he went into the city with Borudosu.

“This is St. Beira, which is also my base of operation. Although it cannot be compared to Ricardo in prosperity, but it has a relaxing atmosphere.”

“Does it has any specialties?”

“…there is none. However, cities with specialties are rare, so it’s ordinary.”

“That’s right.”

“Ok, where should we go first… right, let’s first go buy you a sword. This way.”

Under Borudosu´s leadership, Kosuke went to the weapon shop which Borudosu frequently visited.

Before they arrived at their destination, they meet several people who greeted Borudosu.

(TL: Well aren’t you famous)

On the sign which Kosuke couldn’t read, were the words weapon store written on it.

Perhaps they were at work, in the house next to the store one could hear the sound of beating metal.

At the Counter there was a girl who was about 20 years old was writing on paper, who looked up when the sound of customer coming in attracted her

attention.

Her blond hair which was bound together in order to do things easier also swayed gently.

Recognizing that the customer is Borudosu the young woman/lady approached them with a bright smile.

“Welcome!”

“Hello.”

“I haven’t seen you these days in the city, where did you go?”

“I went to the house of my elder sister.”

“I see. What do you need today? Does it has to do anything with the young boy behind you?”

“You’re right.”

Borudosu pushed Kosuke who was looking at the store curiously.

“This guy’s name is Watase Kosuke, he is just like my brother now. Today we are here to buy a sword for him. It doesn’t matter if it isn’t that sharp, I want one which is durable. Can you help to pick one which is acceptable in terms of the quality?”

Even if the blade is blunt, as long one put in enough strength one can also cut with it, with this kind of thought, Borudosu also chose durable weapons and not sharp ones.

“Uh. Pleased to meet you.”

“I´m Clarice. Hello. Can you come over here please?”

Clarice waved to Kosuke.

Kosuke stepped forward obediently.

“Let me see your hand.”

“Both hands?”

“Please show me your dominant hand.”

Clarice carefully checked Kosuke´s outstretched hand.

After touching the palm, she poked his arm to feel his muscles with her index finger.

What can be checked by this action? Was what Kosuke thought.

While Clarice stared at Kosuke´s hand, she spoke: “You started to use a sword not long ago, right?”

“Can it be seen?”

“Yes. Anyway, I´m also a blacksmith. Over the years I have already seen a lot adventurers, compared to their hands yours is quite tender. You can withdraw your hand now.”

Clarice brought from the store shelves three swords.

“According to your needs, the ones which suits Kosuke in size, will be those three. The prices are also cost-effective.”

“Which one is the heaviest?”

“It’s that one.”

Clarice immediately pointed at the right sword, to Borudosu´s question. Borudosu picked up that sword and handed it to Kosuke.

“Pull it out.”

Kosuke pulled the sword out of its sheath and took a stance.

He didn’t forget what he learned, he keep a very stable posture.

From Kosuke´s expression one could see that he was excited, from holding a sword for the first time.

“Is the weight ok?”

“No problem. It is ultra-light. I think.”

Having that powerful strength, a mere sword is nothing.

So Borudosu choose the heaviest one.

As if intending to strengthen the way of destructiveness.

“I just asked before, but is this kid really a beginner?”

“That’s right. It hasn’t even been a month since he started to practice sword arts. Today should be the first time he is holding a real sword.”

“Yes. Before I had used once a knife, but this is the first time holding a sword.”

(TL: Made a mistake in one of the past chapters since 劈柴刀= cutting knife/ firewood knife I translated it as axe but it seems like more like a knife) “That’s a bit hard to believe. Such a beautiful posture, is not something an ordinary person can do.”

(TL: Well he is a Dragonslayer so not Ordinary.) “It is because I learn quite fast.”

“That’s abnormal.”

“Yup.”

Seeing Kosuke talking like it has nothing to do with himself, Clarice was puzzled.

“Is this the so-called genius?”

“Maybe.”

Because there is no way to explain her about the Dragonslayer, when she think it was a genius then it was so.

Anyway being a genius is not much different, thought Borudosu and Kosuke.

After paying the money, the sword became Kosuke’s.

Perhaps she was hoping that Kosuke will become a regular customer in the future, she also presented him a sword belt.

The increase in weight at his waist is not a burden for Kosuke, but it is still unfamiliar.

Although he already desired a sword in the past, but he still couldn’t believe himself that he can practice with a sword now.

“Ok, let´s go.”

“So fast? What about armor?”

“Later we still need to visit the guild and go back to the hotel. We can talk next

time about the amour. I don’t have any money anymore.”

After the fight with the dogs Kosuke confirmed that there are no problems even if he doesn’t have any amour.

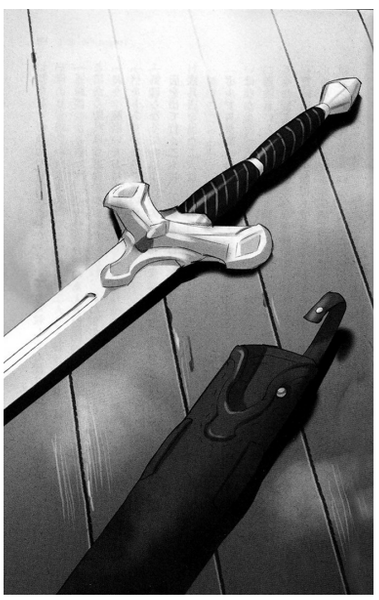
If one want to fight with higher level monsters, having no armor means one’s safety is not guaranteed.

Apart from a particular place, one won’t meet a tough monster here.

Only if some unexpected situation occurs then it will be that.

Anyway this kind of situation don’t just occur any few days, so Borudosu decided that buying armor can wait.

“Since you said so, there is no need to worry. But don’t let him do something stupid. He should just be a newbie, right?”



Saying that is because Clarice didn’t knew about Kosuke, but seeing her being worried about the Dragonslayer, Borudosu was speechless.

“Don’t worry he is even stronger than me.”

“You really love to joke. No matter how I look I don’t believe that beansprout can beat you a berserker. In short we will talk about the armor next time. OK, then see you.”

(TL: well it wasn’t literary beansprout but more like small weak built boy, but I just couldn’t help but to write it like that -> D.Gray-man Allen Walker) “Uh. Then good luck with your smiting.”

“Thank you for the sword belt.”

“You don’t need to thank me. We basically will always give it away for free for new customers.”

Part 4

Hajiko: So here is the next part the next one will take a bit longer since I have less time because of my work. Also this was edited by me so forgive me if it is not that great. So Enjoy TL: Hajiko

Ed: Hajiko

Clarice said with an energetic voice “Thanks for your business” to the two.

The two who left the weapon store went to their destination, the guild from which every adventurer would depart from.

Borudosu described how it is organized while they were walking, which wasn’t much different as what Kosuke thought.

For Adventurer, the guild is a place where they can get jobs and information’s.

For others, the guild is a place where they can get their problems solved.

Although there is no restriction about requests for adventurers, however if one doesn’t have the strength to solve it, they will stop them from it.

Sometimes the guild will entrust the request to one who is suited for it.

If such a situation arise the guild will take the initiative to raise the reward.

If one doesn’t have the considerable strength and reputation, the guild will not give out such a request to them.

A large cafe appeared before the two when they were moving. This was the goal from Borudosu, the Adventurer Guild.

This store was originally opened as a Bar, but because the previous owner loathed drunkards, he changed the business.

After Kosuke who was nervous and Borudosu entered the Adventurer Guild, they attracted the attention of everyone but soon they looked away.

Kosuke stepped back because of the pressure which came from their stares.

“Why did everyone turned to look at us?”

“It is because I’m quite famous here. Seeing you at the side of me they felt curious, but after finding out that there is nothing about you to boast, they immediately looked away. I guess that should be it.”

Borudosu guessed completely right.

If the newcomer is someone strong, then their jobs will be reduced.

In other words, it will affect their revenue.

After checking if Kosuke is worth to form a party with, they judged that there is no worth to work with him.

(TL: If they knew about his POWER xD)

Kosukes quality and appearance, didn’t fit together.

No one had the vision to see Kosuke´s true strength, which leaded to that result.

Borudosu brought Kosuke who was nodding to the registration counter.

At the counter there was a 25-year-old woman and a 15 years old girl.

Both of them wore the guild uniform but the girl looked like a newcomer.

The adult female staff had shoulder long dark green hair, black eyes and under it a mole, she is a beauty.

The girl had short cut blond hair, orange-yellow big eyes which are cute.

But Kousuke felt that there was something which destroyed the cuteness of that girl.

The Girl widened her eyes after seeing Kosuke watching her.

Kosuke was puzzled, not understanding why she had such a response.

Therefore, after carefully looking at the face of the girl, Kosuke discovered that the eye color from both eyes aren’t the same.

But having different eyes color´s in a different world could be no big deal, so he didn’t pursue that.

“Welcome back, Mister Borudosu.”

The Adult female bowed.

“Hello. Can you register that boy?”

“Naturally, than please fill out this paper…”

“Se..Se..Sempai!”

Before the responsible staff finished talking, she was interrupted by the girl.

Borudosu hadn’t seen that girl before, so he guessed that she should be a new staff member.

“What is?”

“Can you leave the work for registration to me?”

“Yes you can, but why so suddenly? Seeing that you’re especially motivated? Forget it. Don’t make a mistake. Sorry for the delay. Because it goes like that, now it will be taken over by her. Since she is still new, she might not be comprehensive enough. If there was something which offered you, please search for me or another staff member.”

“Saying not comprehensive enough and offering, I feel quite worried.”

After listening to Kosuke the staff member smiled first and then accessed: “Because she is quite a ditz/klutz.”

Seeing that after she came here working she frequently made mistake.

But she shouldn’t be a bad person.

Although the adult staff member said ditz/klutz, but one can not hear out a harsh meaning.

“You still know how it is done?”

“Although I’m not confidence, but I have a memo, so there is no problem.”

The Girl took out a Memo out of her chest pocket.

“Don’t think that if you have a Memo there won’t be a mistake. Normally you need to memorize the method. But as long as it won’t be delayed, I need to look away from it. Since you wanted to take care of it, I will let you take care of it.”

“Yes.”

After she stared at the girl she bowed to Kosuke and Borudosu and moved back to her place to handle other works.

“Then I Viare will take care of the registration, ouch.”

She bit her tongue.

Will it really be OK?

Kosuke and Borudosu had a hint of anxiety.

Viare opened teary eyed her memo, confirming the steps.

“Then please fill out your Information on this paper.”

After receiving the paper and charcoal Kosuke who wanted to write with japanese stopped.

“I can’t read and write this language.”

“Eh!”

Viare let out a surprised expression.

Kosuke was confused, not knowing why she is making a fuss about it.

Borudosu also knows that not knowing how to read and write is nothing rare, so he didn’t understand why Viare was so surprised.

“Is there a need to be such surprised? Can it be that not knowing how to read and write is a strange thing?”

If that was the case, Alice and Horun would have taught him how to read and write.

Kosuke looked at Borudosu for advice, he shook his head.

“N, no, but I didn’t expect that you couldn’t read and write.”

“That is strange. You shouldn’t know me right? This should be the first time we meet.”

“Thats right, but my Talent told me that you’re a the Dragon–.”

“Thats enough. We know it already.”

Borudosu reacted fast and used his hand to block Viare´s mouth.

If Alice was present she would have praised his decision.

After that Kosuke asked Borudosu about this, he realized that he had such a foreboding, and could react in such a timely manner.

“Keep this matter confidential, ok?”

Borudosu exposed an expression as if he had met a strong monster.

That expression terrified Viare, and she nodded to that with tears in her eyes.

Part 5

Hajiko: So here is the 5th part of this chapter. And I´m sorry it took that long for that, it was because I lost my motivation (still not really back :[ ) because after work I don't have the motivation to do anything anymore. So enough complaints from me. Also if someone is interested on working on/ taking over this LN please contact me. This part was edited by me.

So Enjoy.

Viare whose mouth was blocked didn't understand why she was treated like that.

She just wanted to tell him his Title which she saw.

From her past work experience, each guest were happy when she did that, therefore she hasn't been reprimanded.

For Viare, a resounding Title is a honor, not something which need to be kept secret.

This was the first time she had met someone who doesn't want his Title be exposed.

"Why", this word constantly resounded in her mind. Borudosu´s graze where fixed onto Viares eyes, after judging that she didn't lie he released her.

"Did something happened?"

The staff who was taking care of the documents on the other table inquired.

The other Adventurers also casted their attention to them.

"Nothing, it's just that this girl was clumsy, so I was shocked."

"Is that so?"

After saying that she left again.

The other Adventures also looked away.

This was a precious moment which was caused by the confusion.

“Could it be that it nearly came out?”

After understanding the situation Kosuke asked Borudosu.

“Ehm, it seems that this little girl has a talent which let her see the Title of others.”

“Then it’s completely known.”

Anxiety flared up in Kosuke, hiding the Title shouldn’t be that hard.

“It’s faster than I thought. Who knew that in right after arriving in this town we will met someone like that. Later we need to talk with her so that she will keep it a secret.”

Being stared at by Borudosu, Viare let out a soft groan.

Hearing the word Negotiation sounded like a threat to her.

“Let’s talk about this later. We should first finish the registration procedure.”

“I can’t write, so can I trouble you to do it?”

“Yes, that’s OK. Uhm… can you tell me your Name please!”

Thinking that a slight mistake may cost her life, Viare talked formally.

She asked something, Kosuke answered.

Hearing a question which doesn´t need to be answered, then Borudosu will immediately interrupt it.

Every time Borudosu interrupted, Viare´s body shuddered fearing she did something wrong.

If she met some sadistic people they would be quite happy.

After the filing of information was finished, Viare printed the mark which means that one has joined the Association on the card and returned it to Kosuke, then she let out a month full of air.

As if she had finished a big project.

“Next, next I will explain how to accept requests.”

“Ah, this can be omitted. I have already explained that to him. You can explain him the part of transferring the request and the rewards.”

“Understood. Then I will explain what is transferring a request. Sometimes one will receive a request which is beyond one’s capacity or is judged as undesirable and is not in the personal areas of expertise. When such a situation arise you need to report it to the guild, we will handle the task of transferring the request. After transferring, one doesn’t have the right to receive a reward anymore. And one must report everything which you found out about that request. Depending on the situation, sometimes you need to pay a penalty.”

“Do you have any questions about that?”, inquired Viare, after confirming Kosuke´s nodded she continued to explain.

“Next I will explain the rewards. The reward will always be written on the commission. On the Commission the fee of five percent is already deducted. So please don’t come to us yelling if the amount which is written and the amount the requester told you is not the same. But if the difference is more that five percent, than please come to us. In addition, for requests which the guild approached you we won’t charge a single fee. This is also a matter of course.”

(TL: Well 5% is not much, compared to a certain Pokemon Game with about 90% -.-’)

Viare talked up to where her notes were.

“The client will sometimes not tell everything to the Guild, which indicates that the other side is in an awkward situation, so you need to be careful. Sometimes it can be because they can not pay the right sum of reward, the reward indicates if someone will take the request. If you think it is suspicious you can directly refuse to do it.”

Borudosu supplemented to what Viare said.

“That´s right. If one take a request, adventurer need to take responsibility for it, no matter what happens the Guild will not intervene. Be sure to pay attention to it. With this the Description is over.”

Viare let out an expression like she finally finished something.

“Was this it?”

“That´s right. Next we just need to seal up this girls mouth.”

“Ah! I forgot that…”

Viare was completely concentrated on the job that she forgot the danger.

Then she slowly slide from her chair, with a teary expression.

“When will your work end?”

“In about an hour my work will end.”

“Then we will meet in an hour in the Ouliyasi Cafe. Do you know that place?”

“I´m a regular there.”

Seeing her appearance Kosuke felt sympathy, but in order to safeguard himself she need to keep the secret.

He decided as long as she keep it a secret, he will invite her to eat something.

After they where done will the registration the two of them spent their time outside(streets).

While at it they needed to sell the drops of the Killing Dog.

The one who was in charge of negotiation was Borudosu.

Since Kosuke never had the experience of selling, so Borudosu demonstrated it to him.

On one side there is the merchant who is trying to buy at a low price, on the other side is Borudosu who is trying to sell it at the market price, the result of it was a victory for Borudosu.

As long as one have a good relationship with the merchant, they can avoid the trouble of negotiations, after Borudosu gave the money to Kosuke he told him that.

Even though it’s still 30 minutes till the agreed time, they decided to go to the cafe, because they had nothing to do.

Kosuke asked Borudosu to read the menu for him he ordered a tangerine custard pie, since Borudosu didn’t like sweets he ordered a ham sandwich and

coffee.

Before the dishes arrived Kosuke asked Borudosu to read the menu again in order to learn the words.

After he memorized the most of the menu, the waiter came with the dishes.

On a plump pie there was the sweet custard cream and marmalade as orange slices.

After picking it up to bit it, a liqueur aroma went into his nostrils.

After eating and drinking his fill Kosuke found Viare walking in, so he rose his hand.

Part 1

Hajiko: So its been a while since the last post I know, but there was nothing I could do about it because of RL. Whilch really did show mercy a bit today so I was able to translate a bit. So anyway Enjoy the chapter Part.

This Part was quick edited by me so there could be still errors in it, so please forgive me for that.

“I came according to your order, please have mercy.”

After walking to the front of Borudosu and Kosuke, Viare immediately bowed.

“The result of it will depend on yourself.”

“Will we talk about here?”

“No, if that muddlehead´s mouth slips it will be troublesome, we will change the location.”

Anyway first they needed to pay up.

Kosuke also brought a cream puff for Viare.

Hoping that she can be a bit more happy.

Because if they continue to talk like that, it will be nothing other than bullying a young girl.

“I can eat it?”

“It was bought so that you can eat it. If you don’t want, then I will eat it.”

“No, then I won’t hold back.”

Perhaps it was because of the sweet´s that her mental stress went down, so Viare´s expression became softer.

Although after she finished it her expression she became gloomy again, but her mood became a bit better, so it is not like it did not had any effect.

“Where will we go now?”

“To my inn. I also plan to have you also live there.”

“Can I afford the fee?”

“Compared to other inn’s the standard is higher and the fee is also more expensive, but the furnishing, safety and hygiene is guaranteed. Can you accept that?”

Kosuke nodded, having this town as base for a long time he should not be wrong.

An old historic looking building appeared before them after walking a bit. That is their destination the inn.

After entering, the staff which knew Borudosu greets him.

Borudosu walked to the counter while greeting him/her.

“Welcome Back.”

“I’m back. Can you help me to prepare a room for this kid? A Single room is fine.”

“No Problem. There are still free rooms. Please register your name here, and pay the fee according the days you want to stay.”

Kosuke signed the with his name in the roster.

They first paid for 10 days.

This was decided because if he couldn’t get used to live here and wants to change the inn.

“And what about this lady?”

“I, you mean me?”

“This girl will not live here. She is only here because we have something to talk about.”

“Is that so? This is the room’s key. Do you need a introduction for the restaurant, bath and other furnishings?”

“No need, I will tell him that.”

“Understood. In order to provide our guests a more comfortable stay, the staff

will do its best. If something happens please tell it our staff.”

Saying so the staff gracefully bowed.

Seeing that Kosuke couldn’t help but also bow while saying “Nice to meet you/ Thank you in advance”.

Seeing Kosuke reaction the staff couldn’t help but to laugh softly.

“We will go to Kosuke´s room.”

Borudosu lead them ahead, while describing where which furnishments are while advancing to Kosuke room.

This inn is a three story building, the second and third floors are guests room.

The restaurant and other furnishings are at the first floor.

The Basement is the warehouse for storing ingredients and cellar purposes, in general guests will not go there.

The room with the best illumination is at the third floor which is also the most expensive, the cheapest are the lage rooms at the second floor.

Travellers which decided to stay for a long term will chose a Single room, while those who only stay for one or two days will chose probably the large rooms.

Kosukes room is located at the east part of the second floor, while Borudosus is located at the east part of the third floor.

The space of the room is more than enough for one person.

The provides furniture are only chairs, a table, bed and a wardrobe.

In the wardrobe is a basket, as long one give the basket with the dirty clothes to the staff they will clean it for you.

The window is made of glass instead of wood.

There was a railing which blocked the possibility for entering or exit via the window.

After putting the luggage into the wardrobe and the sword on the table Kosuke sat on the bed.

Borudosu leaned on the table.

And Viare knelt on the ground.

Because Viare´s movements were naturally, Kosuke didn't feel anything wrong at first, but then asked.

"Why are you sitting on the ground?"

"Ah, because every time when I had been scolded I had to kneel on the ground…"

After saying that she stood up and sat next to Kosuke.

Because she was afraid of sitting on the chair next to Borudosu.

"Then let's talk about that. Our demand is the same which we said previously, that you shut up and don't talk about that."

"Why can't I say it? I really want know the reason for it. Being a Dragonslayer. If it comes out won't you become famous, and be admired by everyone."

Viare shyly asked.

But talking about Dragonslayer's she couldn't help but to be excited.

"I understand what you mean, but not everything will benefit you? If his identity is exposed, the nobles or big shots will arbitrarily arrest and use him. Because Kosuke´s situation is somewhat special, so we determined that we better not expose his identity. And even if we really wants to get his identity exposed it is still too early for that."

"Uh."

Vaire which did not understood much about Aristocrats replied vaguely.

In order to help her to understand it, Borudosu used other examples.

"He himself also doesn't want that his Title will be exposed. Do you want to do something which exclude others?"

"No, I also don't want that. Uh, do you really don't want it to be exposed?"

Vaire asked Kosuke next to her.

"After listening from other peoples who cares for me, I aslo think it is better to keep it a secret. So I ask you to keep it a secret for me? Please."

Viare hesitate for a moment, but soon concluded.

The reason why she hesitated for a moment is not because she wanted to refuse, but because she needed time in order to accept the reason to keep it confidential.

“I understand. I will not tell anyone about that. I swear in the name of the Gods.”

Despite in a weak tone, but she looked at Kosuke while verbally promising that.

“Thank you.”

“That’s great Kosuke. I was worried sick.”

“Supposed…, if I supposed lied just now. And I leaked it out to others, what would you do.”

Seeing Viare submissive appearance, Borudosu instantly exposed a mischievous expression.

“I would kidnapped you and taken you to a forest and tied you at a tree. Taking care of it would be like moving my hand or foots and hide the fact that you disappeared. You would then starved to death in the forest. Next to that there are also other methods, in short, it will be kidnaping you.”

Seeing Borudosu smiling and saying that, Viare let out an squeaking scream and grabbed Kosuke arms and shoulders.

Viare´s hair gently brushed Kosuke´s cheek.

It already been long since he stuck so close to the opposite sex, so Kosuke was stiff of nervousness.

Although he didn’t knew if Borudosu would really be so ruthless, but he knew that he was indeed intimidating right now.

To kidnap someone without preparation is not a simple task, so it was only to scare her.

“She already promised that, why are you still scaring her.”

“I was only telling her the consequences, so that she will not accidentally gossip about that. Not only guild-staff and other adventurers also knows how

reckless her personality is, so scaring her is just right.”

Perhaps because she couldn’t help but to accept what he said, Viare was completely speechless.

“Can you please let go my arm. I nearly can’t feel it anymore.”

(TL: in the raws: I nearly can’t feel my blood circulation anymore.) “Ah, I´m sorry.”

After Viare let go of Kosuke, a warm feeling flowed back into his arm.

After talking about the main topic, Kosuke asked the something which was on his mind.

“You did see my Title as a Dragonslayer with your Talent right? Can you tell me what kind of Talent it is?”

“My Talent is “Title Operation 2” It can unlimited replace the Titles of other and myself. In order to change someone’s Title one need to know their Title´s, that’s the reason I could see Mr. Kosuke´s Title.”

Viare´s Title is not always active, but only when she wants to use it.

So she won’t use it when she is at home, she only use it at work.

“The Guild employed you because of that Talent, right?”

“That’s right. My main job is to change the Titles.”

Normally one can only change the Title once a day.

However with Viare this limit can be broken and the Guild spotted this convention talent.

Which is used to enhance the services.

“Are we done talking over it?”

“I have nothing more. What about you Kosuke?”

“I also don’t have anything to talk about.”

“Then I will go home. My family is still waiting for me.”

Viare stood up and walked to the door.

When she opened the door Kosuke said:

“Then from today on, I look forward to work with you.”

“Huh? Ah, that’s also right. After finishing the registration you can start taking requests. I also look forward to work with you Mr. Kosuke.”

Viare bowed then turned around to leave.

Part 2+ (Monk)

Here's the rest of Chapter 7! Enjoy!

Monk

Chapter 7.2+ – Conversations and the First Request

「Want me to help you out with your first guild request?」(Borudosu)

「Hmm… No, it's ok. I'll just start with something simple to slowly get used to it.

Do you know about how much of a reward a beginner request gives?」(Kousuke)

「Let's see… A group of four fledglings doing a subjugation request will make at least 1,600 Erte, so about four silver coins.

This is probably the limit. If going alone then it'll probably be around half」(Borudosu)「If that's the case then I'll aim for something a bit under that」(Kousuke)

「But if it's you… Nevermind, it's probably best this way so you can get used to it」(Borudosu)

With the strength of the fledgling in front of him, doing more difficult requests wouldn't be impossible but Borudosu stopped himself from pushing Kousuke considering what the norm is.

Afterwards, Borudosu explained in detail the kinds of requests he underwent and how he went about completing them. He even helped unpack all the luggage. Things that could be left in the room were stored into the closet.

Eventually, night fell and the two went down to the dining area.

The inn provides three meals a day, if asked they would even provide packed meals (Bento). Bath time is apparently separated for male and female use. As the various facilities of the inn is being explained the two finished their meal.

「So do you have any plans afterwards? I plan on hitting the bars by the way」(Borudosu)「I'm going to take a walk around the inn. Is there anywhere that I shouldn't approach?」(Kousuke)「If it's around the inn it should be okay. You should avoid the bar area the northern warehouse district though」(Borudosu)「Got it. I'll just be wandering around here then.」(Kousuke)

「It'll be safer that way」(Borudosu)

Borudosu then immediately left the inn.

As Kousuke relaxed onto a couch in the inn's hall, he blankly stared out the window nearby.

The sunset outside made the entire town look like it was being bathed in magic. The bright scene where the darkness is seemingly being pushed back is comparable to even the bustling streets of Japan.

Just as Horun explained, there aren't just humans here. Races like Elves and even Dwarves are spotted here and there in the streets. There also seem to be a race that look like a monster from any angle walking around as if its normal. Time slowly went by as Kousuke continued to watch the street.

「Are you perhaps looking for someone?」(Unknown person)

「Huh?」(Kousuke)

Hearing that voice he quickly turned his head towards the source and saw a woman in plain work clothes standing near him.

「No, I was just observing the people walking around in the street. I'm not really looking for anyone specifically」(Kousuke)「Is that so. But you seemed to have been staring out the window very seriously」(Unknown person)「Ah… Well it's the first time seeing other races besides humans」(Kousuke)

「Oh, that's the case」(Unknown person)

「Um, is everything alright with work? 」(Kousuke)

【TL: Kou is basically asking nicely "Aren't you supposed to be working?"】

「The task I was required to do are already complete so I'm currently on break. May I have the seat beside you?」(Unknown person) 「……. Go ahead」(Kousuke)

After introducing each other the two began to converse.

Finding out her real age Kousuke was surprised.

The woman is apparently the innkeeper's only daughter, Shidi. Currently 23, she is apparently training to take over the inn in the future.

Since she had some free time, upon seeing the seemingly free Kousuke she called out to him to pass the time. It seems she's quite used to conversing with customers.

Only having been to Ricardo and this town, she asked Kousuke about the kind of place his hometown was. A bit troubled at the question, Kousuke decided to say his hometown is a peaceful countryside.

However, Shidi asked for more details about Kousuke's hometown. Changing some details to better match this world he answered her questions. Kousuke's hometown wasn't anything special, with the exception of a few local fruits that was considered its specialty. Despite this, Shidi seemed satisfied with the conversation.

As the conversation ended Kousuke left, deciding to take a bath as it was finally the men's turn to use it.

After taking a bath, Kousuke immediately went to his room. Having nothing to do he contemplated if he should just go to sleep, but his gaze landed on his new sword.

「I guess I can practice my forms a bit before heading to bed」(Kousuke)

He began to slowly practice his forms with the sword sheathed to prevent damaging the room.

Recalling the movements of the Killing Dogs he began a shadowboxing-like practice. He decided against using the unfamiliar movements of the Lutz Monkey for practice since his encounter with it was too brief.

The initially quick practice slowly changed into a more and more serious one. Without realizing this he continued to practice.

He practiced for thirty minutes until his sword hit the wall which made him come back to his senses.

「Ah, it was supposed to a light practice…. Oh well. Good, there's no real damage to the wall」(Kousuke)

After confirming the lack of damage on the wall he placed his sword back against the wall.

Having nothing to do now, Kousuke decided to sleep. Casting《Sleep》on himself he fell asleep quickly.

The following morning, he awoke just before six o'clock since he went to bed early. Casting《Language Interpretation》on himself he proceeded to get some water from the first floor to clean his face. On his way he caught sight of the already awake and sweeping Shidi.

「Good morning」(Kousuke)

「Mornin'. Seems you're up early」(Shidi)

Since they broke the ice during yesterday's conversation both of them spoke casually.

「I fell asleep around 10 so I ended up waking up early」(Kousuke)

「Do you always sleep around that time?」(Shidi)

「Usually no, I just had nothing to do so that's why I fell asleep early」(Kousuke) 「I see. Breakfast isn't ready yet. Why don't you get dressed and rest in your room until then?」(Shidi) 「I'll do that after I wash my face」(Kousuke)

Shidi resumed her cleaning as Kousuke washed his face besides her. The cold water woke him up completely and after greeting Shidi once more he returned to his room.

He fixed his hair, changed his outfit, fitted his sword onto his belt, and grabbed his now emptied bag.

Finished with his preparations, Kousuke headed out then locked his room. Sitting still in the room felt unproductive so despite breakfast not being ready he decided to head to the dining area to wait.

The dining room is quite large, seemingly capable of fitting around fifty people, but right now it was completely vacant. Besides the staff only two customers were seated. The two customers seem to be asleep, arms sprawled out on the table.

He took a seat at a random table and fell into a daze then suddenly the bell indicating that breakfast was ready rang. Upon hearing the bell, the two sleeping customers awoke and stretched to remove their grogginess. The two got up and headed to the counter to pick up some breakfast. Kousuke headed to the counter as well.

「Excuse me, may I also have a packed lunch readied?」(Kousuke)

「You bet. You mind if we pick out the contents? Well.. even if I say that it's usually a sandwich with some fruits」(Counter lady) 「That's fine」(Kousuke)

「Come back after you finish breakfast, I'll give it to you when you drop off the tray」(Counter lady) 「I understand」(Kousuke)

Grabbing some breakfast he returned back to his table. Today's menu seems

to be fish meunière, two pieces of bread, a hard-boiled egg, and a quarter of an apple. The butter and jam seems to be near the counter. He began to eat after spreading some marmalade on a piece of bread.

As Kousuke ate unhurriedly, the other two customers already finished and left the dining area. Little by little, more and more customers started to come to the dining area.

After he finished eating while observing this, he brought the tray back to the counter. Receiving the wicker basket, he soon left the dining area.

「It seems your preparations are done, does that mean you're leaving now?」(Shidi)

Shidi spoke out from behind the reception counter.

「Yea. Today's my first day at work. Well, unless I find a good request I'll probably just end up heading back here」(Kousuke)「I see, I see. Work hard and good luck!」(Shidi)

「See you later」(Kousuke)【**TL: いってきます, Itekimasu – usually said when heading out and can be read as "See you later" "I'll be heading out" "I'm going" but to match a more casual tone "See you later" was the best fit**】

「Mhmm. Have a nice day」(Shidi)

Shidi, returning back to her professional self, bided Kousuke farewell.

With Shidi's farewell, Kousuke left the inn.

He began slowly walking towards the guild. Similarly to yesterday, he began to observe the various passersby. At a glance he saw various races in this seemingly wealthy and peaceful town. It seemed most of the people here aren't from here, based on their outfits that looked more suited for travellers.【**TL: Yes the plural of "Passerby" is "Passersby" or "Passersby". Don't ask me why, I have no idea**】

Arriving at the guild, Kousuke headed towards the area to receive requests. It

seemed Viare wasn't here yet as he was unable to find her.

The requests that the guild usually handle and provide are separated into three parts. Firstly, clients that provide large scale requests are recorded in the binder. Secondly, requests that most adventurers do day-to-day are placed up on a notice board. The type of work and the rewards provided are neatly posted on each request on the notice board. Lastly, posted all over the walls, are odd jobs that anyone is allowed to complete, even if one is not an adventurer.

Right now, many of the adventurers are screening the request notice board. There are a few checking the binder, but they're mostly just checking with absolutely no intention of accepting.

「Let's see what kind of requests there are」(Kousuke)

Kousuke started to check the various requests on the notice board like the other adventurers. But a problem quickly arose.

「I can't read a thing」(Kousuke)

He soon remembered he was supposed to come here together with Borudosu.

It slipped his mind that he was unable to read this world's words. The small amount of the language he mastered yesterday are useless outside of coffee shops. On the other hand, he was able to understand what the rewards were. Unfortunately, it meant nothing if he can't read the request details. There's the disastrous possibility that if he randomly takes a request that it ends up requiring specialized knowledge he may not have.

While pondering if he should just ask for some assistance he spotted Viare who was just about to start her shift.

「Good morning, and I require some assistance」(Kousuke)

「A.. Already?」(Viare)

「I was looking for a suitable request, but I can't read any of them」(Kousuke) 「Ah, so that's the case. I understand. Please wait a moment, I need to inform the others I'm here first」(Viare) 「You're a lifesaver」(Kousuke)

Viare, hearing that, headed to the staff room in an uplifted mood. Usually viewed as unreliable due to her clumsy nature, Viera was very happy because someone was actually relying on her for once.

Viare came back quickly and the two started to scan the notice board.

「What kind of request are you looking for?」(Viare)

「A request that can be done alone and is safe. Since it's my first time taking a request, the easier the better」(Kousuke) 「….Even though you're really strong」(Viare)

Viare stared a bit coldly at Kousuke at his remark.

「We explained to you yesterday about my situation. The amount of actual combat experience I had can be counted with one hand」(Kousuke) 「Just how did you become a Dra… no sorry, nevertheless you have that title」(Viare) 「… … Just now…」(Kousuke)

「That was a close call」(Viare)**【TL: Death flags all over the place 】**

The scene of her covering her mouth with both hands while giggling was a bit cute, but to Kousuke it deepened his impression of her as a clumsy individual more.

「To get used to this I would like you to introduce me some simpler requests」(Kousuke)

Viare started to search the request boards, closely examining the ones with cheaper rewards before plucking one off the board.

「How about this one? You just need to gather some herbs in the nearby forest」(Viare) 「Where exactly is the nearby forest?」(Kousuke)

「The forest is about thirty minutes away southeast of the town. The request requires you to bring back at least ten of each herbs called Contsan, Habkro, and Totrine. The reward is 400 Erte」(Viare)**【TL: Gah.. Weird names to translate】**

「Looks good, but I have no idea what the herb Totrine looks like. Is it possible to see a sample of it?」(Kousuke)

He was already familiar with Contsan and Habkro from studying with Horun before. Those two herbs can be picked anywhere as long as the conditions are optimal. He wondered if the southeastern forest has such conditions.

「Yes. There's a picture book explaining the various floras. Would you be taking this request?」(Viare) 「Yes please」(Kousuke)

「Then please, this way」(Viare)

Brought before the counter, the request was then processed as accepted.

「One moment, I'll bring the picture book now」(Viare)

Viare, after confirming the location of the book from her co-worker, quickly came back to the counter with it.

「Let's see.. Totrine.. ah here it is」(Viare)

His gaze focused on the pointed picture in the book.

Being unable to read the content, he proceeded to memorize the plant's characteristics in the illustration instead. As a precaution he asked her to read the description of the plant. Afterwards, he also checked the entry for Contsan and Habkro as well.

「That should be all. I'll be heading out now」(Kousuke)

「Yes, have a safe journey」(Viare)

Seen off by Viare, Kousuke left the guild and soon the town.

As told, he headed south east for thirty minutes. The trip was uneventful and he quickly arrived at the forest.

「I guess I should start looking」(Kousuke)

At the entrance of the forest he casted《Repel: Insects》on himself before entering.

Contsans dislike bright areas and grow in the trees' shaded areas, Habkros grow underneath fallen leaves, and Totrines grow inside streams.

He decided to gather Contsans first and started to search around the shaded areas around the trees. Usually there's around three growing together so it was easily gathered. Brushing off the dirt on its roots, he proceeded to tie the gathered herbs together with some rope.

Unable to spot any brooks or stream, he decided to gather Habkros next. While kicking away dead leaves and dirt he spotted some herbs that looked like it was crawling. It seemed as though this herb would be more difficult to gather than Contsans. In the end though it was gathered without much effort.

Finally he just needs to gather some Totrines and started to search for a stream.

「I wonder if my hearing has improved as well.」(Kousuke)

Relaxing, he started to attempt to listen for the sound of a running stream.

The sounds of falling leaves, the faint sounds of nearby insects, the rustling of something like a beast could all be heard clearly. Suddenly, something closing in from behind was picked up.

Turning around and staring at the direction of the sound, 4 Lutz Monkeys appeared about 10 seconds later.

「Even monsters can appear here!?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke thought for a moment and realized there were monsters even in open plains. Monsters appearing in forests didn't seem unnatural anymore.

His misconception of monster habitats most likely stemmed from his time when he camped outside with Horun in the previous forest.

Sensing Kousuke's hesitation on whether to fight or not, the Lutz Monkeys abruptly charged towards him.

Despite the sudden attack and being outnumbered, since they're even slower than Borudosu who cannot land an attack on Kousuke, he was able to evade the sudden attack.

「…… No choice now」(Kousuke)

Being attacked, Kousuke reaffirms his determination and draws his sword.

Seeing Kousuke's challenge the Lutz Monkeys showed some hesitation, but they continued their attack.

He swung his sword towards the chest of the closest Lutz Monkey. His training with Borudosu came to fruition as the sword sliced the monster in half in one

move. Blood sprayed out, with bits of it splashing onto Kousuke.

The remaining Lutz Monkeys froze in place upon seeing their brethren being cut down, showing fear of Kousuke's overbearing strength.

Kousuke shook the sword a little causing the remaining Lutz Monkeys to rapidly retreat. Then the odd sensation that was spread around him started to fade. Kousuke, unused to this "Sixth sense like" sensation, could only slightly discern it.

But thanks to this one combat experience he was able to understand it more.

「If I appear very strong then I can prevent these attacks from happening?」(Kousuke)

"The Survival of the fittest", all beasts and monsters follow this and are definitely more sensitive when it comes to sniffing out danger. They only attacked Kousuke because he hesitated and gave off a weak impression. By giving an impression of great strength or a very strong blood thirst, unwanted encounters can be prevented. These beasts and monsters, wanting to survive, would naturally avoid him if he'd have just done that.

Very ferocious monsters may react aggressively towards strong killing intent, but there shouldn't be anything like that nearby human settlements. If there were, the humans would send in knights and soldiers to subdue or oust the monster.

After he shook off the blood on his sword and used a cloth to clean the remaining blood he proceeded to continue his search for a stream.

Thanks to that one fight, the monsters that understood Kousuke's strength as well as beasts were nowhere to be seen. They seemingly went into hiding while holding their breaths, the original noisiness of the forest faded.

Whether it was because of the quieter atmosphere or because he began to move, Kousuke managed to catch the faint sound of running water.

Finding the stream he immediately went in, picking up the Totrines that were

growing here and there until he finally finished gathering the requested amount.

「Well, I gathered them all. It seems it's around noon based off the sun's position, guess I'll eat lunch and rest a bit before heading back」(Kousuke)

He found a suitable rock to sit on and proceeded to take out his basket and water canteen.

He began to eat while listening to the sound of flowing water and falling leaves, it gave off a picnic-like atmosphere.

「Alright, let's head back」(Kousuke)

Finished with the request, he headed out of the forest.

He arrived at the guild just before 1 o'clock.

「Is Viare in?」(Kousuke)

Since he was unable to locate her around the guild, he was then informed that she was on her lunch break.

「Excuse me. I accepted the herb gathering request and wish to hand it in」(Kousuke)「Okay. Do you know the request number?」(Guild receptionist)

「Request number is 334」(Kousuke)

「Please wait one moment please」(Guild receptionist)

The receptionist opened the file and searched for the request information.

「The request was to gather Contsans, Habkros and Tortrines correct? Could you please take out the gathered materials」(Guild receptionist)「Here they are」

(Kousuke)

Kousuke proceeded to hand the guild receptionist three different bushels from his bag.

「Please wait a moment while I confirm the materials」(Guild receptionist)

The guild receptionist began to confirm the validity of the herbs by comparing it to the plant picture book.

「These are indeed the requested materials. Hmm, it seems you brought back more than the requested amount though. Did you perhaps gather the extras for yourself? I shall return the extras to you then」(Guild receptionist)「No thank you, I just gathered extra since they just happened to grow near the tenth ones, I would rather let the client have the extras」(Kousuke)

Looking closely, it was just an extra Tortrine and three extra Contsans.

「Is that so. I understand. Then please accept the completion reward. One silver coin, equaling 400 Erte, please confirm」(Guild receptionist)**【TL: I can imagine Viare accidently giving a gold coin here】**

He placed the given coin into a small wallet pouch.

「With this, the request has been completed. Thank you for your hard work」(Guild receptionist)「Would it be alright if I may inquire about something?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke asked to the bowing receptionist.

「If it is within my capacity」(Guild receptionist)

「I'm interested in purchasing a book that teaches how to read and write, I was just wondering how much they would cost?」(Kousuke)「A book, let's see… for that specific book it'll cost three silver coins」(Guild receptionist)「So Expensive!?」(Kousuke)

Since it was possible to quickly produce books with magic, it seems handwritten literature like in his world's past were less prevalent here. Due to that, the price of the books in this world is lower in comparison, but these literatures are still somewhat expensive because they are, after all, hand produced one at a time.

「Please keep in mind that there are production costs as well as the valuation involved for the information certain books contain. The pricing is actually lower because it's just for the sake of learning how to read and write. Perhaps the price might be about 10 copper pieces more」(Guild receptionist)**【TL: This was actually awkward as hell to translate】**

「Thank you very much. Would it be alright if you can point out the location of the bookstore as well?」(Kousuke)「If I recall, it is located in the southern area of the shopping district」(Guild receptionist)「Thank you very much」(Kousuke)**【TL: He gives out thanks like candy】**

After giving his thanks he left the guild.

Reaching the area of his destination he proceeded to check the stores. On the third store he checked he managed to find it.

Upon asking the clerk what he wanted, two books were handed to Kousuke. With his purchase more than half his earnings vanished.

「Welcome back」(Shidi)

「I’m back」(Kousuke)

When he returned to the inn he was immediately greeted by Shidi stationed at the reception counter.

「So, how was it?」(Shidi)

「I went to gather some herbs outside the town. With my earnings from it I bought two book to learn how to read and write. I plan on studying them now」(Kousuke)「You weren’t able to read and write?」(Shidi)

「Yup」(Kousuke)

「We have a few books here as well, how about taking a look at them once you get the hang of it?」(Shidi)

Of course, these books were not bought but something past customers simply forgot. In total, there are four books.

「Is that okay?」(Kousuke)

「Everyone else and I here have already read them so it’s not a big deal」(Shidi)「I’ll take you up on that offer another time then」(Kousuke)

「Just say the word, I’ll grab them for you anytime」(Shidi)

After acknowledging her offer Kousuke went back to his room.

Sitting down on the bed, Kousuke immediately opens the book focused on nouns first. There are various letters written under the picture of an apple and horse. On each page there are three words written, the book has about a hundred pages. Letter by letter he began to memorize each of them. Just by concentrating, every single letter was easily memorized in around two hours. Though he could probably write a bit now, nevertheless he was perfectly capable of reading the letters fluently now.

「Phew… Guess I'll take a break」(Kousuke)

Worn out from concentrating for two hours straight, Kousuke left his room and headed down to the first floor.

He returned the basket to the kitchen and asked for some juice then proceeded to sip on it comfortably.

After taking a twenty minute break Kousuke headed towards the laundry drying area. Upon reaching the place, he started to slowly recall the movements of the Lutz Monkeys and started to train. Since he didn't have to worry about smashing a wall this time he trained with full swings.

After training for fifteen minutes Kousuke stopped and decided to head back to his room. On his way, he realized he was unpleasantly sweaty from doing the herb gathering request and wanted to take a bath first.

After finishing taking a bath he had dinner before heading back to his room to continue his studies. This time he started reading a different book, a picture book describing in detail the scenery and its inhabitants. There were various markings and words describing animals, movements and the name of the location throughout the pictures of the book.**【TL: This bit was a bit tough to translate】**

As he continued to read the language showed grammar and style similar to English, but as of right now Kousuke has yet to fully grasp it. Leaving aside being able to write for now, he decided to focus on being able to read perfectly.

He continued to read past 11 o'clock.

Concluding his studies he prepared to go to sleep as he buried himself on the bed.

With this, the curtain has fallen on Kousuke's second day in this town.

ToC Chapter 8

Chapter 08 (Monk)

Here's chapter 8 everyone! ENJOY!

Monk

Chapter 8: The Handyman, Non-Adventure

Unlike before he did not awaken before 6 but past 7 o'clock the following morning.

Following the same pattern as yesterday he cleaned up and got dressed before he headed down to the dining area. The dining area was brimming with people today in contrast to yesterday. It seemed like it was the peak hour.

He searched for an open table and immediately occupied one. The menu today was bread, cheese, tomato salad, corn potage, and half an orange. Without forgetting, he also requested a packed lunch.

While leisurely eating breakfast he eavesdropped on the nearby conversations. According to what he heard, Borudosu, whom was not seen since yesterday, was able to obtain an egg of something four days after receiving the request.

Finished with breakfast, Kousuke grabs the packed lunch and headed out towards the guild building.

With the bit of studying he did the night before he tried to read some of the requests. Of course, to not bother the other adventurers he was looking at the odd jobs section on the wall.

「This is… House, rock, move. Is it alright to assume it's just to move some rocks around someone's house?

The reward is 200 Erte huh. Let go with this.

The request number is… it's not written here? I can just grab this then right?」(Kousuke)

He ripped it off the wall and brought it to the counter, thinking it would be okay to just put it back up if anything.

「I would like to take this request if it's alright」(Kousuke)

「… This is an odd job request, are you fine with this kind of work?」(Guild receptionist)【**TL: IT BEGINS!**】

「It's a request to move some rocks on someone's lawn right? If that's the case it's fine」(Kousuke)「Yes, that is correct. Please take the request form with you to the client then」(Guild receptionist)「There's no need for any paperwork? I recall having it done yesterday」(Kousuke)「Perhaps is it your first time taking an odd job request?」(Guild receptionist)

Kousuke nodded.

「Serious paperwork is not necessary for any odd job requests. You simply need to present the request notice to the client. Upon completion of the request the client will provide you a "Proof of Completion". You just need to bring both of these back to the guild. With that the odd job request can be considered completed. Please take care since in the case you lose either the request notice or the proof, even if you completed the request you will not receive any reward」(Guild receptionist)「Thank you very much. If it is no trouble, could you inform me where I must go? I'm still in the process of learning how to read so I currently cannot read the address」(Kousuke)

After being informed the name of the client and the address Kousuke departs from the guild.

While asking around to confirm that he is going in the right direction, his destination revealed a house that was significantly larger than those around it.

Searching for a doorbell in vain he decided to just go through the gate and headed towards the door. A short while after knocking on the door some approaching footsteps could be heard growing audibly louder.

「May I ask who it is?」(Client?)

A man, who looked around 60, answered the door.

Seeing the man Kousuke presented the request notice.

「I'm someone from the guild that accepted the request, are you perhaps the client who needed some rocks moved?」(Kousuke) 「Oh! So someone accepted it. Let's get you working immediately. You should go gather your colleagues, I'll be waiting here until then」(Client) 「Colleagues? But I'm doing this alone」(Kousuke)

「Alone!? It's impossible to do this alone though. I'm not trying to be mean, but you should bring someone to help out」(Client) 「I'm pretty sure it'll be fine. Despite how I look I'm quite confident in my strength」(Kousuke)

The man glanced at Kousuke's body with a doubtful look. Kousuke's thin body that lacked muscle just made him look completely unfit for any heavy manual labor.

「I just can't see you as being capable though」(Client)

「How about this, please let me attempt it first and if it seems impossible I'll go get someone to help. How does that sound?」(Kousuke)

Thinking that the boy in front of him would give up after trying, the man decided to lead Kousuke to the place.

「The lawn is this way」(Client)

The lawn's size seemed like it was a bit bigger than the size of two classrooms combined. It's definitely something an average person would consider extraordinarily large.

On the right side of the lawn stood two large rocks. One of the rock seemed to be buried deeply. The buried rock definitely needed at least four people to be

able to wrap around it.

「I need that one moved over here. How about it? Impossible right?」(Client)

「I'll give it a shot for now」(Kousuke)

The client points towards the buried rock and continues to dissuade Kousuke, in response Kousuke smiled. He just couldn't see himself being unable to lift it up.

Upon reaching the rock a thought came up.

「Why not break it first then carry it?」(Kousuke)

Hearing that, the client simply responded that the rock was too hard to break.

Kousuke murmured his acknowledgement. He wrapped his arms around the rock and put some strength in to lift up the rock.

The client's doubtful expression slowly changed into utter surprise.

The rock was surprisingly slowly being lifted out of the dirt. While he lifted the rock out, Kousuke's finger were digging into it.

「DAAHHHH!」【**TL: Raw is** だっしゃーっ！ **But leaving it as DA SHA sounded weird**】

With a loud cry he put in more strength to completely remove the rock from the ground.

Once the rock was removed it was confirmed that about a third of it was buried before.

This was perhaps the most strength Kousuke ever used thus far, but he still had much strength left to spare.

He carefully placed the rock down at the designated spot.

「What about the other rock?」(Kousuke)

「Huh? Ahh! Do the same thing for the other one too」(Client)

The utterly surprised client responded.

The other rock was carried over even more easily as it was smaller and lighter.

「I honestly cannot believe you carried them alone! And it was done so quickly, I was expecting it to take longer」(Client)「I thought I told you I had confidence in my strength?」(Kousuke)

「This kind of work normally can't be completed with just confidence. Ah forget it. Thank you, you saved me a lot of trouble. With this I can finally say my farewells to this place」(Client)

While appreciating the thanks he received Kousuke inquired about the "Proof of Completion".

「Umu, wait here a bit」(Client)

The client went back to the house and returned with the proof along with some cookies.

「The snacks are thanks for showing me something amazing」(Client)

「Are you sure?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Kou-chan.. it's just COOKIES!**】

「Don't mind it. It's something among the many things I received. I still have a lot left anyways」(Client)【**TL: Why does it sound like those cookies = pile of gold coins?**】

「I see, then I'll gladly accept them」(Kousuke)

Giving his thanks, Kousuke received the proof and some cookies.

「By the way, are you free after this?」(Client)

「After I hand this into the guild I have some free time, why?」(Kousuke)

「Is that so, is that so! It just so happens the old lady next door needs some help remodeling a room. Do you think you can lend her a hand? Of course there's a reward involved」(Client) 「Sure that's fine. It shouldn't be harder than lifting rocks」(Kousuke)

It's only a bit past 10 o'clock. He was actually worried about not having anything to do after returning.

「Then please come with it」(Client)

Following the client's lead they headed next door.

The client explained to the old lady about Kousuke and allowed them to come into her home.

Following her instructions Kousuke proceeded to move various cabinets and drawers. Though it took less strength to do this it felt harder since it required a lot more focus to not damage the cabinets and drawers.

In the end, the task was done in less than an hour.

「Thank you. Here's for reward for your hard work」(Old lady)

The old lady gave Kousuke three copper coins. He quickly pocketed them.

「In the future I might request your help again」(Old lady)

「As long as I'm in this town I'll gladly accept」(Kousuke)

He told her his name and current residence.

「I guess there are adventurers like you out there huh. The adventurers I usually see are rowdy and arrogant, they would usually ignore these kind of requests」(Old lady) 「Even the guild receptionist told me that these requests are usually not accepted」(Client) 「I just find it bothersome to have to leave town for requests so I decided to take up some odd jobs」(Kousuke)

Even though he can defeat any of the monsters around here, he's not the type that would willingly look for a fight.

「I'll be taking my leave then」(Kousuke)

「Thank you, it was a big help」(Client)

「Please take care on your way back」(Old lady)

As the two gave their farewells Kousuke headed back to the guild.

He received five copper coins upon handing in the request notice and "Proof of Completion".

After eating lunch Kousuke started to look at the odd jobs again to find similar requests. If similar requests are there he could kill some more time.

Soon he found a request to throw out some furniture.

After confirming the contents of the request at the reception, Kousuke headed out towards the town's third district.

Even here the client was doubtful whether Kousuke could carry the furniture on his own but he tried to persuade the client otherwise.

This request was by far the longest. Due to the distance required to carry the

furniture, nearly two hours passed.

Despite this though not much fatigue was felt. Receiving the “Proof of Completion”, Kousuke headed back to the guild and received five copper coins. With this, he concluded today’s work.

「Welcome back」(Shidi)

「I’m back」(Kousuke)

「Wai.. wait a moment」(Shidi)

Kousuke tried to head to his room after being greeted, but was stopped by Shidi’s voice. Shidi’s gaze was fixated on one of Kousuke’s possession, the COOKIES.

The bewildered Kousuke could only tilt his head in confusion at the reason for being stopped.

「Are those cookies?」(Shidi)

「These? I got these as an extra reward from today’s work」(Kousuke)

「Those cookies are from the most popular store in Ricardo!」(Shidi)

「Really? I guess I got something good today then」(Kousuke)

「They’re REALLY GOOD! There’s a rumor that you need to have a reservation three weeks in advance to get them!」(Shidi)【**TL: Shidi.. your mature, professionalism.. it’s fading away with this!**】

「To even require a reservation. I’m starting to get a bit excited about eating them now」(Kousuke)【**TL: You’ll share right? RIGHT?! -drools-**】

Shidi fell silent and continues to stare at Kousuke.

Eyes speak louder than mouths, Kousuke knew her intent clearly from her stare.

「… … Do you want to eat them together?」(Kouske)

「IS THAT OKAY!?」(Shidi)【**TL: Woa woa Shidi.. they're just cookies! Three weeks wait, delicious… sumptuous.. -drools-cookies..**】

「I doubt I could finish them by myself」(Kousuke)

「Mmm come over here then. Let's eat them together in the staff lounge. I'll prepare some tea first!」(Shidi)

Exceedingly excited, she ran from the reception to the kitchen.

「No one's manning the reception now, I wonder if it's alright」(Kousuke)

Shidi, contrary to her excited appearance, was surprisingly level-headed with her responsibilities. On her way to the kitchen she asked another staff to fill in for her at the reception.

Shidi called for Kousuke after returning to the reception with a teapot and cups.

The both of them entered a room near the front entrance.

Kousuke proceeded to place the cookies on the empty plate. Marbled, chocolate chips, nut filled, caramel, sugar coated, jam filled cookies were placed out, in total eight flavors.【**TL: What are the two other ones… I wanna know!**】

As the two were snacking, Kousuke spoke up about books.

「Book?」(Shidi)

「Um. You said you would show them to me before」(Kousuke)

「That's true, but what happened to the ones you bought?」(Shidi)

「I already read them」(Kousuke)

「Is that so? Alright, I'll go get them」(Shidi)

Shidi quickly returned with one book in her hand.

「This is a book about sightseeing. It's not for this area, but sightseeing spots in the neighboring country」(Shidi)「Mind if I read it here? I may need your help with parts of it」(Kousuke)

「That fine. My break finishes in fifteen minutes though」(Shidi)

【TL: Where's my "oo" "mmm" "ahh" eating reactions! I thought they were supposed to be the best cookies ever!】

Kousuke opened the book and began to examine the contents. Since Kousuke's current level of vocabulary was lacking he had Shidi fill him in on those parts.

Soon Shidi's break time was over so Kousuke headed back to his room. While he struggled with some nouns, using the previous books as reference he was, albeit slowly, deciphering the book.

The following day he went back to the guild and started to scan through the odd job requests.

He found a request to tear down warehouses and brought the notice to the counter.

「Ah, Viare! Good morning」(Kousuke)

「Good morning as well, Kousuke-san」(Viare)**【TL: She's back!】**

「I'll be accepting this request」(Kousuke)

Kousuke presented the request notice.

「Is this an odd job request? Are you alright with this?」(Viare)

「Yup. I was doing odd job requests yesterday too. Odd jobs, aren't they just nice and safe」(Kousuke)【**TL: Ah translation, isn't it just nice and sa.. nope**】

「You were doing these yesterday as well I see. Oh well, since you yourself want to do them I guess it's fine. Oh, I almost forgot!」(Viare)

Seeing Kousuke accepting odd jobs, Viare recalled something.

「After you finish with that request would it be possible to accept mine afterwards as well?」(Viare)「If it's something I can do then I'll accept. Don't forget about the reward for it」(Kousuke)「Yes I understand. Good luck with that request then」(Viare)

「Roger that! I'm heading out now」(Kousuke)

With Viare seeing him out Kousuke headed straight towards the new client's place.

Arriving at the address, Kousuke stops in front of an office building. Meeting the client inside the two headed towards the warehouses' location.

The place they arrived at had four warehouses, two of which needed to be demolished. Though all four warehouse seemed decrepit it was counter-productive to demolish all four since the client still needed some space to store things. Therefore today's request involved just demolishing the two emptied warehouse. The client intended to put up a new request to demolish the remaining two after all the goods in them were transferred to a newly constructed warehouse.

The client had the manpower to do this with his employees, but unfortunately they had other responsibilities holding them back. That being the case it was decided to request the help of some adventurers.

The client was worried at first since only one person came, but seeing Kousuke demolishing the building adeptly while dual-wielding heavy hammers drowned out his worries so he left.【**TL: I imagined this https://i.ytimg.com/vi/LMTgvl1qCjE/maxresdefault.jpg**】

Following the further request of breaking down the scraps as small as possible, Kousuke finally finished a bit before 1 o'clock.

Kousuke had some lunch before he headed back to the office to inform the completion of the request. The client was shocked at how fast it was done so he went to the scene to confirm.

「I'm back. Here you go, the request notice and the "Proof of Completion"」(Kousuke)「Thank you for your hard work. Let's see… the reward is one silver coin」(Viare)

Kousuke quickly puts the silver coin into his back pocket.

「Before we start with your request, can you tell me what it entails?」(Kousuke)「My request is to fix a building's roof」(Viare)

「Isn't this impossible for me? I'm not exactly a carpenter」(Kousuke)

「There's no need for it to be completed at a professional level. A quick fix is more than enough.」(Viare)**【TL: As an optician I know exactly how long a quick fix lasts.. it doesn't. HIRE A PRO VIARE!】**

「Then isn't it possible to do this by yourselves? Why ask me?」(Kousuke)

「Unfortunately among those close to me I don't have anyone that is capable of doing this.

And if I try to do it myself everyone stops me」(Viare)

「Ah that's right, you're considered clumsy by others and they afraid you will fall」(Kousuke)

Viare nods in agreement.

It seems she's not just clumsy but reckless as well because last time she didn't take any precautions and tried to fix the roof herself. Everyone around her frantically stopped her then.

「I'll accept then if you don't mind an amateurish result」(Kousuke)

「Would it be possible to start tomorrow? I didn't expect you to finish today's work so quickly so I didn't prepare anything yet. Come tomorrow in the afternoon then. I have to go get permission for a long break for tomorrow」(Viare)「Roger that, I just need to come here tomorrow afternoon right?」(Kousuke)

「Yes please, thank you for this」(Viare)

「I'm going to head back now, bye bye!」(Kousuke)

「See you tomorrow!」(Viare)

Just like the night before, Kousuke proceeded to study before heading to bed.

The following day in the afternoon Kousuke arrived at the guild. The sword on his waist no longer caused any discomfort due to its weight. Though, it cannot be said that he is as experienced at wielding it as the others around him.**【TL: I have no idea why the author added this bit about the sword.】**

Spotting Viare at the reception he approached her.

「Hello」(Kousuke)

「Ah, hello」(Viare)

Viare asked Kousuke if he already had lunch, he nodded that he did. That being the case the two immediately headed out of the guild.

As the two walked towards the location Kousuke would ask Viare from time to time about their current location while committing them to memory.

Their destination was a building that looked like an apartment. There seemed to be around six children running around playing in front of it.

「I would like you to repair this building's roof」(Viare)

「I don't know how to say this nicely but.. It's really busted looking huh」

(Kousuke)「It's due to the lack of funding. The residences that already moved out provide some remittance for the building. Though it'll keep the building from falling apart further there's not enough to actually fully repair it」(Viare)

Viare was completely surrounded by the children as soon as they got closer.

Hearing the commotion, the adults inside the building also came out.

「Viare? Aren't you supposed to be working right now?」(Unknown)

「I'm back father. I asked for a longer break today so I could bring this person here」(Viare)

The sixty-ish old man approached the two. It seemed he had a bad leg since he needed a cane.

「May I ask who this it?」(Viare's father)

「The adventurer I hired to repair the roof」(Viare)

Ignoring the "Are you two lovers" comments from the surrounding children, Kousuke introduces himself.

Viare's father bowed towards Kousuke. Hearing that he's an adventurer the children also distance themselves from him.

「Is that so. It's a pleasure to meet you, my name is Wei, the manager of this orphanage」(Wei)「I'm Kousuke Watase, the person hired to fix the roof」(Kousuke)

Kousuke bowed towards Wei as well.

Seeing Kousuke's action Wei was slightly startled.

「Is there something wrong?」(Kousuke)

「No no, it's just compared to the other adventurers you're very polite. Not all adventurers are rowdy and arrogant, but most in fact are. Very few adventurers are willing to bow towards the client. I used to be an adventurer and was quite the ruffian so that's why you surprised me」(Wei)

Wei laughed lightly in an embarrassed manner.

To Kousuke, this explained why the children backed away from him; they thought he was like the rest of the adventurers.

「So that's the case. It's probably because it hasn't even been a month since I became an adventurer」(Kousuke)「That could be the case, but when I started I was pretty cocky. Thanks to me being like that negotiations with my past clients were generally unfavorable」(Wei)「If that's the case then shouldn't I simply maintain this attitude of mine?」(Kousuke)「It would really depend on the situation. There are times when being aggressive is the best course of action」(Wei)「I see I see」(Kousuke)**【TL: Nod like a madman Kou-chan, oh don't forget to thank him like 500 times while you're at it】**

「Let's cut this conversation short, we should talk about the request」(Viare)

The conversation between the two about adventurers was stopped by Viare.

「You're right. I almost forgot you came here to work. Let's begin the discussion about the request then. Since Viare is going to be explaining everything let me at least lead you to where all the tools and supplies are」(Wei)

Leaving behind the children the three headed towards where the tools and supplies are located.

Kousuke felt that the procedure was rather simple. Just nail a new board over the spots that's leaking water and coat it with some hydrophobic paint. Once it dries coat it one more time. As long as the person in question wasn't afraid of heights anyone can do this kind of work. The building is about eight meters tall and there doesn't seem to be any trees or bushes nearby to use as a cushion in

case of a fall. Falling while repairing this build would probably lead to some heavy wounds.

「Would you like to go up with a ladder or just crawl onto the roof from the second story window?」(Wei) 「I can fly up with magic so there's no need」(Kousuke)

Kousuke took this chance to practice some flight magic as he began to float lightly.

『He should be fine』thought Wei as he bowed before heading back inside.

「I will be heading back to the guild then」(Viare) **【TL: You should probably watch him Viare.. he might destroy the building with his super strength】**

「Wait, before you go…」(Kousuke)

Viare was called for as she was about to depart.

「What is it?」(Viare)

「Can you come up to the roof with me to confirm the spots first? There's a chance I might miss some otherwise」(Kousuke) 「… How am I supposed to get up there?」(Viare)

「I can carry you on my back or in my arms then we'll fly up」(Kousuke)

「… Can I ask my father to take my place?」(Viare)

「I'd prefer not to put an elderly through this」(Kousuke)

「… You won't drop me.. will you?」(Viare)

「I won't purposely drop you. As long as you don't make any sudden movements it should be fine」(Kousuke)

With a troubled expression Viare nodded reluctantly.

「You tried to go up yourself before right? Why are you so worried now」(Kousuke) 「It's because I've never flown before, of course I'd be worried」(Viare)

「So not every one can fly huh..」(Kousuke)

「Didn't you know that flight magic isn't easy to control?」(Viare)

「The person who taught me this magic didn't really explain that to me」(Kousuke)

According to what Alice told Kousuke, people with a magic aptitude equal or higher than C-can use flight magic efficiently. Unfortunately, flight magic is considered impractical for people below the C-aptitude. If the person's control over their mana is poor then they would have difficulties controlling how high they can go and how well they can steer. If the person lacks the quantity of mana to supply the spell then they wouldn't be able to fly very far.

Alice has an aptitude of C+ so she can fly for around 12 hours while Kousuke can fly for around 3 hours since his aptitude is C-. Flight magic has an absolute requirement of at least a D rank aptitude to just activate. With an aptitude of D, one can fly for around 10 minutes. Also, the flight speed doesn't affect the mana consumption rate. No matter how much faster you fly there is no change in the consumption rate. It is also recommended to not fly at top speed, even in the spur of the moment, as controlling it is very difficult and can lead to severe self-injury instead.

「Could you fly up on your own first? I'll feel a lot better if I see that there's absolutely no problem」(Viare) 「Sure thing」(Kousuke)

Kousuke started to float upwards as he used his magic. He slowly reached the roof then floated back down.

「How was it?」(Kousuke)

「It looked safe enough. Th.. then I'll be imposing」(Viare)

Viare climbed onto Kousuke’s back. To make sure she wouldn’t fall or get dropped she clung on tightly.

Viare’s chest, though not big, was pressed onto Kousuke’s back. Noticing that sensation Kousuke suddenly froze.

「Is there something wrong?」(Viare)

Viare inquired towards Kousuke at his unusual behavior.

「N.. Nothing! There’s no issue at all!!」(Kousuke)

「Is.. is that so」(Viare)

With the soft sensation pressing on his back, Kousuke’s embarrassed reaction caused by it made the oblivious Viare wonder what was wrong with him.

「I’m flying now!」(Kousuke)

「KIYAAAA!!」(Viare)

He flew up quickly to cover up the situation. But that made Viare cling on even tighter.

Kousuke almost lost his focus for that brief moment but somehow managed to get on the roof safely.

While floating slightly over the roof all the leaking spots were pointed out.

Finishing the inspection the two flew back down to the ground. Feeling her feet back on the ground an expression of deep relief floated on her face.

Viare soon took her leave to get back to the guild. After seeing her off Kousuke

began to repair the roof.

Upon further inspection there were remnants of previous repair attempts left on the roof. All of these quick fixes were the result of the constant lack of funding this orphanage suffered.

Bang Bang The sound of a hammer resounded. Finished with sealing the spots he prepared to coat them.

He flew back down to grab the paint and brush but suddenly felt like he was being watched.

「Hm?」(Kousuke)

When he focused towards the direction of the gaze he saw the children there. The children were staring at Kousuke as he was about to return to the roof with the supplies. They quickly hid behind the building the moment Kousuke saw them.

『What was that about?』Kousuke wondered as he returned to the roof.

He began coating the spots generously and rapidly finished up. 『Once they dry I just need to coat them again』Kousuke thought. The paint would take three hours to dry so Kousuke sat down on the roof as he began thinking about what to do until then.

After contemplating for five minutes he gave up so he decided to head back down for now.

On his way down Kousuke happened to meet eye to eye with an eye patched child that was in bed through the second story window. Kousuke waved towards the stiff child, in response the child weakly waved back.

「Did that child have a cold?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke shifted his gaze up towards the second story window.

Having nothing to do Kousuke called for Wei to let him know he's heading out for a bit. He decided to walk around while waiting for the paint to dry.

Sensing the children's gaze Kousuke turned around to see them staring at him from the shadows.

「If they needed something they would talk, right?」(Kousuke)

Thinking that they were only staring at him because he's a bit unusual, Kousuke disappeared from their sight as he left the orphanage.

While Kousuke killed some time by buying and eating various foods the sun began to set so he headed back to the orphanage.

Kousuke quickly finished the rest of the repairs. After informing Wei that he was done he headed back to the guild.

「I finished the request」(Kousuke)

「Thank you for your hard work. I already have the "Proof of Completion" so I just need the request notice」(Viare) 「Here ya go」(Kousuke)

Kousuke pulled out the notice from pocket and handed it to Viare.

「The stated reward is 50 Erte, here are two copper coins and 10 stone coins. Please confirm the amount」(Viare) 「… Certainly. Oh, please take this as well」(Kousuke)

Kousuke gave her a bag filled with baked sweets and candies from his earlier eating spree.

「This is?」(Viare)

「It’s for the children. Also for the child that’s sick with a cold.」(Kousuke) 「Thank you very much. But a child with a cold?」(Viare)

「I saw that child through the second story window」(Kousuke)

「Oh, that child doesn’t have a cold」(Viare)

「Does the child have some sort of illness?」(Kousuke)

「That’s not really the case either. The child is actually very healthy. It’s just the child has very little stamina」(Viare) 「So these kind of cases do happen」(Kousuke)

「I was informed that in about 4-5 years there shouldn’t be any problem though. —The person behind you seems to have some business to do here, would it be alright if we continue to talk another time?」(Viare) 「I didn’t realize I was holding up the line. Sorry. I’ll be heading back then」(Kousuke)

Kousuke apologized towards the adventurer behind him then returned back to the inn.

Chapter 7.2+ ToC Chapter 9

9

Here’s chapter 9! I finished it earlier than expected!

18,400 characters of fun that became a little over 10,000 words in English! Praise me~

Well without further ado~ ENJOY!

Monk

Chapter 9 – Kousuke and the Adventurers

The following few days Kousuke continuously completed various odd job requests.

He avoided requests that required technical skills like dog training, book translations and management. He lopsidedly fulfilled many manual labor requests to the point that others considered it entertaining.

Constantly doing manual labor requests made him very famous that people would to just request for him directly at the guild.

For example, assisting in dismantling a cow. The client was a butcher that wanted to visit his pregnant daughter in Ricardo since she’s about to give birth.

He wanted to decline this job at first since it was something he had no prior knowledge of, but was strongly persuaded and couldn’t refuse.

Kousuke was originally requested to just cut up and separate the various portions of a cow. The other employees hand their hands full with purchases and handling tons of bird’s meat so just having Kousuke do some of the beef portions was a huge help.

He received some training and a memo about the process on the first day. For the following six days Kousuke would process the beef early in the morning until 9AM every day. Thanks to that, his skills improved in a blink of an eye. When the butcher finally returned, Kousuke could already be considered a top class

dismantler.

He came to be known as the town's handyman rather than an adventurer. The other adventurers started to view Kousuke as an inept adventurer that's unable to complete regular requests from the board.

Because of that some adventurers started to directly show some misgivings towards him.

「Hey you!」(Unknown)

As Kousuke was about to head out after receiving an odd job request from the guild, an unfamiliar adventurer called out to him.

「Is there something you need?」(Kousuke)

「You should come with us on our request」(Adventurer)

「Wha? I already accepted a request though」(Kousuke)

「It's just an odd job request. Just drop that garbage and help us out with our *real* request instead. You could at least become a decoy for us」(Adventurer)【**TL: Xianxia moment! YOU'RE COURTING DEATH!**】

「I prefer doing easier requests」(Kousuke)

Kousuke raised his hands to refuse the offer and leave but his shoulder was grabbed by a man, presumably the leader.

「Could you please release me?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Why you so nice, punch him**】

「Just obediently listen to what we tell you. We seniors are sincerely just trying to help you by letting you get some experience outside safely. Of course, there's a learning fee so we'll just take your share of the reward」(Leader)

「To call this sincerity would be idiotic, what kind of person tries to drag out

someone who's not even wearing some armor into dangerous places. On top of that, you're robbing them of their portion of the reward」(Kousuke)

Feeling annoyed, Kousuke rebuked in a threatening manner. Stress was building up from constantly hearing these malicious rumors about him, Kousuke was reaching his limit.

「The hell you say!? Quit blubbering like an idiot and just follow us obediently!」(Leader)

The "Leader" yelled at the top of his lung. The "Leader" isn't short tempered, but was trying to intimidate Kousuke into obedience.

The other members of the party joined in and gave Kousuke bloodthirsty glares.

Unfortunately for them it had no effect on Kousuke who was used to even stronger blood thirst from monsters.

「Is there something wrong?」(Guild receptionist)

Hearing the yell, a guild receptionist approached.

It was a receptionist Kousuke knew well. She was the one that assisted Kousuke on his first day here.

「These people are preventing me from completing my request」(Kousuke)

「Isn't it a guild rule to not interfere between adventurers' problems? Get the hell away from here!」(Leader)

「There is such a rule about non-interference, but the impeding of another's request is a different story」(Guild receptionist)

「Who the hell cares about those odd job requests!」(Leader)

「Odd jobs? Are you perhaps Kousuke Watase?」(Guild receptionist)

「That's right, is there a problem?」(Kousuke)

「No, I just wanted to confirm. You're not in any form of trouble. The one's in trouble for causing one though is you and your party, Regulus Parlor」(Guild receptionist)

「Regulus Parlor?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke could only tilt his head at that unfamiliar name.

「It's their group's party name. Generally, when adventurers gather together they would form a team and set up a party name to represent them as a whole」(Guild receptionist)

Regulus Parlor, apparently there's a jewel called that here meaning "To attract one another". These guys most likely used that name to show that they were grouped together by fate.

「How are we the one's causing trouble? The one really causing trouble is HIM! This penny-pinching, "Coin Scrounger" failure of an adventurer!」(Leader)

Since Kousuke was constantly doing those odd job requests with almost no rewards the other adventurers were quick to assume he was a failure as an adventurer and gave him a derogatory title of "Coin Scrounger".【**TL: For those who do not understand, Coin Scrounger is the equivalent to a beggar in this situation**】

「… a "Coin Scrounger" huh..」(Guild receptionist)

Laughing lightly she continued the conversation. She smiled without hiding the ridiculing look she gave the party.

「I'm sure you haven't heard but do you know what type of odd job Watase-san constantly accepts? Each and every one of them require a lot of strength to complete. Normally, even if the adventurers are strong you would need at least four of them to complete each of those requests he selected. Watase-san on the other hand completed them alone and at record speed as well. Furthermore, within these twenty days he has completed 35 of these types of requests with only one day of rest. To top it off, all of the clients are extremely satisfied since he thoroughly completed all of their requests without fail or compromises」(Guild receptionist)

Kousuke wasn't doing those requests rapidly with a purpose. He just didn't feel tired at all. No matter what kind of manual labor request this town threw at him, as long as he gets a good night's rest he would be completely recovered the next day. The only reason why he didn't work one day was because Borudosu forced him to thinking he was just pushing himself.

「So.. SO WHAT! All of these odd jobs are easy as hell to do anyways!」(Leader)

「That may be so for some. Honestly speaking, there are definitely a lot of odd job requests that adventurers would normally never take. On the other hand, it's often that the same requests cannot be completed unless an adventurer handles them, this is a fact. The requests he has been completing at a high pace just happens to be those kind. I'm sure there's no way all of you are unable to see the impressiveness of this right? Also, giving him a derogatory title of "Coin Scrounger", do you not see how foolishly you're defaming yourself by trying to stroke your own ego?」(Guild receptionist)

The receptionist gazes toward the crowd, indicating that her comment was not

only directed at the group in front of her but to every other adventurers listening in.

Her previously spoken ridicule was not towards Kousuke, but towards the adventurers who were scorning Kousuke.

「Why are you taking that bastard's side so much?! You're not going to get anything from siding with an achievement-less bastard!」(Leader)

「It's the guild's responsibility to take care of talented adventurers」(Guild receptionist)

「Talented? HIM?! He hasn't even done anything adventurer-like?!」(Leader)

He laughed loudly in a ridiculing way while pointing at Kousuke. Kousuke who was being pointed at was stunned at the receptionist's words. He hasn't even done any requests that would warrant such attention. He felt it was a wonder that he was being evaluated so highly.

「He is talented. There are many clients specifically requesting for Watase-san already. Though the requests are currently only for odd jobs」(Guild receptionist)

With that one comment the atmosphere in the room wavered. Even if it's just odd job requests, being personally requested is a rare occurrence. Within this guild branch, first being Borudosu, there are currently five adventurers that get personally requested.

「Stop spouting nonsense! This bastard getting personally requested?! All of the requests he's done were just odd jobs! There's no way he would get personal requests just from doing those!」(Leader)

「It's precisely because they are odd jobs. They are requests for help from this town's citizens. By completing them and satisfying the clients thoroughly it

would drastically improve one's image in the people's eyes. And by word of mouth the clients would spread their satisfaction to others. "My request was fulfilled by this adventurer". Just by hearing that the people would assume if any problem comes up that adventurer would be able to fix it. And if that adventurer actually fixes the problem the people's appraisal would further increase, spreading that adventurer's fame more. You may not receive a lot of tangible rewards out of odd job requests, but on the other hand, through these requests you can also earn the intangible reward of the townspeople's good will and impression. Do you understand? This was the sequence of events that lead to Watase-san receiving personal requests. Incidentally, it also raised the guild staff's impression of him. Thanks to him we were able to reduce the enormous amount of odd job requests」(Guild receptionist)【**TL: Wow.. long monologue**】

Hearing how favored he was by the guild the adventurers there felt uneasy.

「When a request isn't completed for a prolonged period of time it shows how incapable the guild branch is to the people. Do you think people would continue to send us requests in that case? They'll obviously find another guild branch to fulfill their requests instead. If the amount of requests coming into the guild is reduced it'll negatively impact the branch's revenue. So, despite it being "just" odd jobs, since Watase-san has been completing them one after another, he is considered a welcomed presence here. Do you now understand why I'm siding with Watase-san? To us staff and to this guild he is an important existence in comparison to you and your party that's giving him trouble」(Guild receptionist)
【**TL: One-Two long monologue, TKO! Monk loses!**】

The members of Regulus Parlor stared at the receptionist and Kousuke in a frustrated manner.

Kousuke himself did not expect such an outcome, he was just selecting easy-to-do requests for himself. His seemingly small actions ended up building up to this current situation.

「I got why he's being so favored alright. I got it but I can't accept being called a nuisance for the guild by you!」(Leader)

「I don't think you quite understand, are you just playing dumb? Your party tends to take requests that are far above your capabilities. Your success rate is below 40% right now. Under normal circumstances, the transfer process of requests is an uncommon occurrence! In the past year and a half your group has already done it ten times! If you take into account for the times you've repeated that prior to coming to this branch it's over twenty times!

If the guild continually sends out groups that cannot fulfill the requests it'll only serve to hamper the guild's reputation. Honestly, if that isn't considered a nuisance then what is?

Therefore a discussion was carried out by this guild branch's staff and we came to a consensus. If, for any reason, your group transfers another request over to another then your group will be penalized with a half year suspension of all guild activities. This is a warning, not a suggestion! Does everyone understand?」(Guild receptionist)

These kind of discussions are usually done in private. There were two reasons for why she publicly announced them.

Firstly, to broadcast the true importance of odd job requests in hopes of getting more adventurers to accept them. This reason though was probably thought up on the spot.

The real reason is definitely the second one.

It's to show that the guild is putting their foot down and drawing a line. There are too many people here that witnessed this, making it undeniable. If Regulus Parlor even tries to transfer a request then the guild will report to all branches about the punishment.

In hopes that it'll urge them to become better adventurers, this course of action was taken so that the members of Regulus Parlor understand that there are no more second chances.

「Tct.. Fine I get it! Men, we're heading out!」(Leader)【**TL: Tct is him clicking his tongue btw**】

Being unable to use the guild's facilities is considered a heavy blow to any adventurer. Each and every member of Regulus Parlor understood the severity of it.

Since they had no choice the party headed out to discuss among themselves how to thoroughly complete their current request.

「I hope they turn over a new leaf with this」(Guild receptionist)

「Um.. Would it be alright if I depart to do my requests?」(Kousuke)

「Of course, please continue as you normally would」(Guild receptionist)

「I just try my best, really…」(Kousuke)

Kousuke understood that he's able to do all of this work thanks to his superhuman specs, but this event made him realize he still underestimated it. A typical adventurer rarely attempts more than one request per day and would normally take a break every two to three days as well.

「If that is so then please continue like that. There are many adventurers that are incapable of trying their "best" after all」(Guild receptionist)

「I plan on continuing this pace for ten more days」(Kousuke)

「Ten days?」(Guild receptionist)

「I plan on leaving this town after ten days」(Kousuke)

「Is that so… It's a shame to see a talented adventurer leave, but it would be rude to try to keep you here. The open road and the romance of an adventure, wanderlust is unavoidable with your line of work」(Guild receptionist)

「It's not really something on that grand of a scale, I just plan on heading back

home. I may drop by again since I will need to make more money later」(Kousuke)

The receptionist smiled at his response feeling a little relieved. She wanted to avoid seeing such a talented adventurer disappear.

Seen out by the receptionist, Kousuke headed towards his current client's address. Today's request is to help the client move some luggage.

It was noted that after today the amount of adventurers accepting manual labor odd jobs increased bit by bit.

Only six days left until the deadline given to him by Alice. Reaching the financial goal, Kousuke headed back to the inn in good humor. After finishing dinner he relaxed comfortably in his room. While he was thinking about what to do tomorrow since he no longer needed to work, the noise of someone running towards his room interrupted his train of thoughts. The running footstep stopped in front of his room before the door flung open.

「Kousuke-san, I need to ask you for a favor!」(Unknown)

It was Viare who barged into the room. She was sweating a lot and completely out of breath as she stared desperately at Kousuke.

Kousuke was startled by the conviction in her eyes.

「A.. favor?」(Kousuke)

「I need you to help bring back Korungu's group that snuck out of town!」(Viare)

「Who's Korungu? Catch your breath first and calm down a bit and tell me everything from the start. Don't worry, I don't plan on refusing」(Kousuke)

He gave Viare a cup of water. She gulped it down in one go and took a few moments to catch her breath.

「Um.. So do you remember the child that you thought had a cold? Well that actually happened recently. Since the child has very little strength and stamina the symptoms the child is suffering is a lot worse. Magic and medicine can be used to stabilize the child's condition, but unfortunately the town is out of the specified medicine. I considered finding someone with flight magic to ferry some of the medicine over from a neighboring town, but the reward money required for the request and the price of the medicine was simply too expensive. I barely managed to get enough money by borrowing from my neighbors.」(Viare)

Viare took a deep breath before continuing.

「My request is for you to bring back the group of children who misunderstood the situation by thinking no one was able to pay for the medicine and left to get it themselves」(Viare)

「I understand, so one of those children is called Korungu」(Kousuke)

「Yes」(Viare)

「Are you certain they are not in the town?」(Kousuke)

「At first we searched for them thinking they were just wandering around in town. But then we heard someone saw them sneaking into a cart and left the town」(Viare)

「That person didn't stop them?」(Kousuke)

「The person assumed the children were related to the owner of the wagon」(Viare)

「I see, you wouldn't stop them if you assume that. Do you know where the children were headed?」(Kousuke)

「They're heading towards the Western Hollows. It's about six hours away on foot, but that place is considered to be one of the most dangerous place around here. They went to get a herb called Leele Tortrine that grows in the bottom of the lake there」(Viare)

Kousuke's expression became grim hearing the herb's name. He recalled what Horun told him about that specific herb. He hurriedly got up and retrieved his sword standing against the wall.

「That place has some of the strongest monsters in the area! And the children went there by THEMSELVES!?」(Kousuke)

It's already considered dangerous heading there, but it's even more dangerous in that area.

He immediately left and casted《Flight》on himself. A crowd formed from the commotion and Kousuke was seen flying out of town by Viare, Shidi and the various inn patrons.

Flying at top speed, Kousuke reached the edge of the Western Hollow in about thirty minutes.

It was dark due to the cloudy night sky and he was too focused on flying forward to realize the possibility of spotting the children on the way there. But the situation turned out to be unusual. The sparse moonlight illuminated an area near his arrival spot revealing two adventurer-like people with the children.

「They're safe… phew」(Kousuke)

Seeing that the children were safe Kousuke let out a big sigh of relief.

「Hey you, do you know these kids?」(Adventurer?)

Startled by his sudden appearance the two adventurers' vigilance spiked as they questioned him.

「Yes, I know them as well as their guardian. I was requested by the guardian to find and bring them back safely」(Kousuke)

The two adventurers questioned the children if they know the man in front of them, the children nodded.

The two adventurers relaxed a bit after hearing that.

「Is that so. Then please escort them back–」(Adventurer?)

While one of the adventurer was speaking he was suddenly interrupted by a loud shriek.

Everyone's gaze shifted towards the direction of the shriek, but it was too far and dark to be able to confirm what it was.

「Shit.. they attracted a Violent Barb!」(Adventurer?)

"Violent Barb", this was the name of the monster that made this Western Hollow a danger zone.

It usually lives underground near Leele Tortrines and its main body, the bulb, was rarely exposed. To compensate, it's extremely shrewd and uses its roots with a razor sharp fang lined mouth on each roots' tip to capture its prey. It's impossible to determine when and where it'll strike from underground with its numerous roots. Attacking the roots was largely pointless since its main body stays hidden. No matter what, this monster was something a beginner cannot contend with.

There are more than five of these things taking refuge in this hollow.

「You stay here and protect the kids!」(Adventurer?)

Without waiting for a response the two adventurers dashed towards the direction of the shriek.

Roars and screams, sounds of weapons clashing, twenty minutes passed when the two adventurers returned carrying some of their previously missing comrades. They were all bloodied and heavily wounded, just walking was a struggle for them.

「I'll leave their care to you」(Adventurer?)

The adventurers gently laid their most wounded comrades down before trying to head back towards the center of the hollow.

Kousuke stopped them from pushing themselves further.

「It's impossible with the wounds you have!」(Kousuke)

「One of our own is still out there! He sacrificed himself so we could get away!」(Adventurer?)

「We promised we would return to rescue him.. We have to go!」(Adventurer2?)

Despite their broken bodies the two's determination didn't falter.

『There's no helping it』thought Kousuke and spoke out once more.

「… Even so I would prefer that the two of you stay here. I shall go in your stead」(Kousuke)

「That's even more dangerous! What can you do with just that sword? You don't even have any armor on!」(Adventurer?)

「I'll be fine. I'm not asking you to believe me since it will be the first time I'll be facing a strong monster. But still, an acquaintance of mine told me I would be fine no matter what I faced」(Kousuke)

Kousuke recalled his discussion with Horun and Alice about the Leele Tortrine and what would happen if he had to fight against a Violent Barb.

Their response, winning would be difficult but losing would be absolutely impossible.

The condition to win would be to have a method to attack the bulb underground, but the current Kousuke cannot recall having any such method on hand. Even so, the Violent Barb would also be unable to deal any real damage to Kousuke. He knew that if it got dangerous he could always retreat out of its attack range.

Having too little combat experience, Kousuke was unable to determine what would happen if he were to fight against a Violent Barb. Believing the words of Horun and Alice though, this he could do. He was convinced thanks to their words that there is no way he would lose.

「We shall entrust the rescue to you then」stated the adventurers as they judged that Kousuke would be more reliable than they would be with their tattered bodies.

Kousuke nodded as he casted《Light》and unsheathed his sword, dashing down the slope towards the center of the hollow. Sensing the vibration caused by Kousuke's running, the Violent Barb viciously attacked him with its roots. Instantly, over twenty roots appeared, each with a thickness similar to tug-o-war ropes with a mouth lined with razor sharp fangs on the tip.

「OUTTA MY WAY!」(Kousuke)

He dodged what he could and sliced through the rest with his sword. Even the thick, sturdy roots that are capable of repelling most blades were getting bisected by brute force.

After slicing through around ten roots Kousuke reached the spot with the highest concentration of roots. There was a nauseating scent of blood here accompanied by a weakened cry and the sound of flesh being bitten.

「MOVE!」(Kousuke)

He swung his sword violently, scattering most of the concentrated roots in front of him.

「Uhhh」(???)

Past that swarm of scattered roots a bloodied man was seen collapsed on the floor.

Kousuke covered his mouth, barely holding down his nausea at the sight of this. Keeping his hand over his mouth he spoke to the collapsed man.

「Hang in there, I'll start treating your wounds」(Kousuke)

As he bent down to cast《Greater Heal》to mend the man's grave wounds, a bunch of new roots sprouted out towards them from the ground.

Drawn by the smell of blood, most of the roots aimed at the bloodied man and largely ignored Kousuke. To keep the man safe Kousuke repelled their advance with his sword. No matter how many roots Kousuke repelled, more and more

roots appeared preventing him from being able to treat the man's wounds.

「There's no end to this!」(Kousuke)

「Ru.. run a.. way」(???)

With a flickering consciousness the man tried to persuade Kousuke to escape.

「You shouldn't speak right now」(Kousuke)

Instead of completely healing the wounds, Kousuke quickly used《Heal》to at least stop the man's bleeding. Kousuke barely managed this since casting《Heal》is faster than《Greater Heal》but unfortunately this only stopped the bleeding. As for the already lost blood and strength, there's nothing he could do about it at the moment.

「How should I proceed from here?」(Kousuke)

Though the man wasn't bleeding anymore, Kousuke was hesitant to move the body. Trying to carry him out would just result in being swarmed by more roots. It would put a burden on the man's body with the constant dodging and weaving and may re-open his wounds. It would make the man's condition even more critical.

「It would be great if there was a way to stop their advance」(Kousuke)

The man continued his preaching to run away, but Kousuke ignored him as he planned his next course of action. Nothing solid would come up as the roots would interrupt his train of thoughts with their incessant attacks. Scattering and

cutting them apart, it didn't matter as they kept sprouting up.

「YAAAH!! You're all such a bother! Don't make me uproot you!」(Kousuke)

Thinking about what he just screamed without thinking, Kousuke taps the hilt onto his hand thinking『That's it!』.

「I just need to pull out the bulb and smash it!」(Kousuke)

The man quietly retorted that Kousuke's idea was impossible, but it wasn't heard.

Immediately, Kousuke acted on that thought and grabbed one of the nearby roots. Grasping the root with both hands he pulled with full strength. At first, the root stretched out longer before suddenly ripping. The ripped portion in his hand flailed around a bit before stopping all movements.

「It'll rip if I just pull one root, then I just have to grab a bunch before tugging this time!」(Kousuke)

This time he grabbed ten roots and pulled strongly. Compared to the rock moving request in the past there was more resistance felt, but it wasn't enough resistance to impede Kousuke.

The ground shook and the dirt and sediments roiled as the Violent Barb's bulb was uprooted and exposed! This monster looked like a lychee with hundreds of roots attached to it. Its spherical body was a little over a meter in diameter in length and it seemed to lack any ability to fight itself.

【TL: Lychee! Click Me! 】

「Urgh.. I don’t want to get close to that」(Kousuke)【**TL: Me either…**】

The sight of the roots attached to it squirming could make one’s heart feel faint.

Swallowing down the discomfort, Kousuke charged at the monster knowing that if he didn’t the situation wouldn’t change. Using the momentum of the charge at the bulb he swung his sword.

Sensing the incoming danger the squirming roots on the bulb lashed out towards Kousuke. Ignoring the roots his sword connected and the squirming roots movements stopped.

「The last blow!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke thrusted his sword.

The Violent Barb’s bulb was pierced down to its core.

The roots shook at the impact before falling limp.

Kousuke pulled out the sword from the Violent Barb and swung off the monster’s fluid. From that encounter Kousuke’s entire body was covered in the monster’s fluid. It made him feel disgusted.

「Ugh.. This is nasty. My clothes are tattered and slimy too, I want to change out of this!」(Kousuke)

As he was mumbling to himself it became evident that the attacks from the other Violent Barb’s roots ceased. The rest escaped after seeing one of their own get killed, fearing it would happen to them too.

Since the situation calmed down, Kousuke was finally able to thoroughly treat the man. Crushed limbs and broken bones, one after another was completely mended with his magic.

「Think you will be able to move now?」(Kousuke)

「… Ah… you.. you saved me. I still can't believe you just dragged it out like that.. and even defeated it」(???)

With the pain and wounds mended the man was able to clearly speak to Kousuke now.

「I lost a lot of blood and strength though, I don't think I can really move yet. Sorry for the trouble but think you can carry me?」(???)

「Not a problem.. But I'm quite filthy at the moment」(Kousuke)

「I can't really complain in this situation, don't worry too much about it」(???)

「Got it」(Kousuke)

The sword was a bit out of shape and he was unable to sheath it. Kousuke just slid it into his belt before he carried the man.

「I know it's not proper to ask you for a favor after all this, but would it be alright?」(???)

「If it's something I can do」(Kousuke)

「Could you gather some Leele Tortrines in the nearby lake?」(???)

It seemed these adventurers were handling a request to gather some Leele Tortrines. Since the Violent Barbs were quiet right now the man didn't want to give up this chance to retrieve the herbs.

The two took a slight detour to the lake to gather the herb before arriving back to where everyone else was waiting. It seemed they were still vigilant of their surroundings.

In addition to when he gathered the Leele Tortrine, Kousuke cleaned himself in the lake.

「He's back! Is Raycok safe?!」(Adventurer?)

「Ya.. I'm somehow still alive」(Raycok)

The man called Raycok was immediately surrounded by his comrades. It seemed the rest of them tended to their own wounds, most of them were healed already.

「You have our deepest gratitude for saving our comrade!」(Adventurer?)

The group of adventurers all bowed towards Kousuke.

「Here, these are for you guys」(Kousuke)

Kousuke handed some Leele Tortrine to one of Raycok's comrade.

「You gathered these for us?」(Adventurer?)

「I was asked to and had some leeway anyways」(Kousuke)

「Leeway? Even though you're so tattered?」

「It's just the clothes. My body didn't get wounded at all」(Kousuke)

「You must have taken a lot of hits if the conditions of your clothes are like that right? Not being hurt despite that is just…」(Adventurer?)

Kousuke rolled up his sleeves and presented his arm. The areas he was bit and smashed by the roots were only slightly swollen red. Fractures or broken bones?

There wasn't even a single scratch on him. As for pain it was just a slight tingling sensation.

「Just what are you made of…」(Adventurer?)

「I'm just a bit sturdier than others. I wasn't really aware by how much until today's fight though」(Kousuke)

The adventurers were exasperated, there's a limit to how sturdy someone can be! Seeing how calmly he stated that, the rest of them felt that their near-death struggle earlier was a joke. It was simply abnormal, becoming half-dead like them was the expected outcome here.

Everyone completed their goals so the only thing left to do was to head back. The only problem was that not only Raycok but the rest of his team were in dire need of rest. It was decided everyone would camp out until dawn. The children became restless and complained that they needed to bring the Leele Tortrine back as soon as possible but the adventurers scolded them that it was too dangerous. The children weren't convinced and tried to go back themselves.

「《Sleep Wave》」(Kousuke)

If they can't be convinced with words, then do it by force. Kousuke casted《Sleep Wave》on the children to keep them from leaving. The children resisted at first but one by one they collapsed.

「Should have just done this in the first place.. Or just scare them into listening」(Kousuke)**【TL: Holy crap Kou-chan.. That's dark】**

「I can't do that to kids」(Adventurer?)

「I can't tell if you're just being kind or naive」(Kousuke)**【TL: What's with this 180 attitude?!】**

Those who could move prepared to set up camp. It was just to gather some firewood and kindling for a bonfire though. The last thing done was to find something to blanket the children with.

Kousuke went to Raycok's group for some travel rations since he came out here with only his sword.

Having nothing left to do the group chatted as they passed the night together.

The area was clear of monsters since they didn't want to come near the gluttonous Violent Barbs. Even those feared Violent Barbs kept clear of Kousuke which allowed the group to relax without the need for a serious night watch.

As they conversed it became clear why Raycok's group were nearly killed.

They knew of the dangers involved in retrieving some Leele Tortrines before accepting this request. They originally arrived here at night and planned to proceed the following morning. None of them fancied the idea of running around in the dark. The reason why they went in still was due to their soft-heartedness.

As they were prepping camp the children stumbled upon them and told them their reason for coming. Being unable to refuse the children's request, Raycok's group, despite knowing how dangerous it would be, went into the Violent Barbs' territory. As a person, that decision may have seemed magnificent and altruistic, but as an adventurer there's no limit to how poor that plan was.

When Kousuke pointed that out the entire group lowered their heads in apology. Seeing these adventurers who were clearly older and his seniors as adventurers lowering their heads convinced Kousuke of their soft-hearted nature. It also explained why they weren't able to refuse the children's request.

Apparently, the reason why they were even doing this request was due to it being transferred from the party Regulus Parlor. Regulus Parlor was the original party that accepted this request, but were forced to retreat when they attempted it since they underestimated the Violent Barbs. As a result, Regulus Parlor's access to the guild facilities was suspended since they were warned beforehand.

Hearing this Kousuke briefly wondered what Regulus Parlor would do in the future, but quickly lost interest as they reaped what they sowed.

Night turned into day. After having a good, long rest the group immediately headed out towards St. Beria.

One of Raycok's comrade named Guts started to converse with Kousuke on the way.

「Mind if I ask you a question?」(Guts)

「Sure」(Kousuke)

「I was just curious why you're not sheathing your sword. It seems dangerous the way its dangling」(Guts)

The sword wouldn't fit back into the sheath after last night's fight against the Violent Barb. If one examines the sword carefully many chips could be seen on the edge and the blade itself looked a bit bent.

「It doesn't fit anymore. If I try to force it my sheath may break」(Kousuke)

「It's a miracle that's all that happened to your sword after you cut apart a Violent Barb. Normally you shouldn't be able to cut it apart like that」(Raycok)

Raycok voiced his disbelief despite seeing the fight himself.

「He cut it apart?」(Guts)

「The roots and the bulb, he shredded them apart」(Raycok)

Hearing this the rest of the adventurers stared at Kousuke in amazement.

「Really?」(Guts)

Kousuke nodded.

Seeing the condition of the blade and hearing Raycok's testimony, the rest were forced to believe it.

「You really don't look that strong though…」(Guts)

「Even I thought it was a dream since my conscious was a bit hazy. But after seeing the unmoving corpse of the Violent Barb and retrieving the Leele Tortrine I realized it wasn't a dream」(Raycok)

「Having that much strength, you must have a name or title you're known as right?」(Guts)

「I was called a "Coin Scrounger" before」(Kousuke)

「WHAT!?」(Everyone else)

The adventurers were shocked further.

「The "Coin Scrounger" I heard about from the rumors was said to only do odd jobs and has no ability as an adventurer though」(Guts)

「I only do odd jobs because it's safe and easy」(Kousuke)

「Don't you feel it's more appropriate to search for ruins and such as an adventurer though?」(Raycok)

「The reason why I became an adventurer was to gather a certain amount of money, not to make a name for myself」(Kousuke)

「… Ah.. So that's why. I guess your path as an adventurer is just a bit different compared to most. But with your capabilities you could easily do almost any requests」(Raycok)

Raycok's group stared at Kousuke with envious eyes. Seeing those eyes Kousuke felt a bit taken aback. The strength he has wasn't earned through effort but through sheer luck and being stared at like that by people who do their best was painful.

They tried to invite Kousuke into the party but was refused. The group continued to idly chat as they travelled.

They safely arrived at St. Beria a lot later than expected since they were matching the children's pace with numerous breaks in between.

「I'll be taking the children to the orphanage then」(Kousuke)

「We'll drop by your inn later tonight then」(Raycok)

Raycok's group wanted to hold a feast for being able to safely return. Kousuke nodded contently and walked with the children.

They escorted the children together for a bit before separating. They first visited a doctor before heading back to the guild.

The fate that awaited the children back at the orphanage was a bump on their head caused by Wei's fist. They were being scolded harshly for causing everyone to worry and for leaving the town without permission.

Next to the scene of Wei scolding the children, Viare was bowing her head towards Kousuke.

「Thank you very much Kousuke-san!」(Viare)

「I didn't do this alone. You should also thank the group of adventurers responsible for gathering some Leele Tortrines. I only escorted the children back. The one's who listened to and protected the children were them」(Kousuke)

「Is that so. I understand, I'll express my gratitude to them as well. But I still

wish to thank you as well. I was very happy that you immediately headed out after listening to my request」(Viare)

「I'm pretty sure anyone would in that situation」(Kousuke)

「A normal adventurer would ask for the request's reward first before moving」(Viare)

「Ah that's right I forgot to ask you about that. I was frantic from hearing that the children were in danger so I can't recall the details.」(Kousuke)

Kousuke scratched his cheeks feeling embarrassed.

Viare gave Kousuke an apologetic look.

「About the reward.. I truly wish to give you something but because of the debt I incurred… I hope you don't mind being paid in installments or everything on a later date」(Viare)

「You don't have to go through that much trouble…」(Kousuke)

He recalled his fight with the Violent Barb, but decided to keep quiet about it. He understands the current situation the orphanage is in and does not wish to burden them in any fashion.

「I didn't really do much so you don't have to worry about the reward」(Kousuke)

「That's not okay! Please allow me to give you your just reward!」(Viare)

「But.. It really wasn't that difficult of a job」(Kousuke)

「What are you two talking about?」(Wei)

Wei approached to two as he gave the role of scolding the children to another person.

「Father! Kousuke's trying to refuse the reward he deserves」(Viare)

「It's because I didn't do much to deserve any reward」(Kousuke)

「I recall Viare telling me that you flew out as soon as possible towards the Western Hollow. You also safely brought the children back. You acted to save the children and completed the request with their safe return, I think this warrants receiving a reward don't you agree?」(Wei)

「Then instead of giving me the reward please give it to the adventurers that put their life on the line to keep the children safe. I believe they deserve it more for listening to the children's selfish request that placed them in a lot of danger」(Kousuke)

Raycok's group didn't even accept the request but did it anyways so Kousuke tried to refuse the reward on that basis.

「So there were other adventurers that helped the children. What kind of selfish request did the children ask of them?」(Wei)

He explained how the children begged Raycok's group to gather the Leele Tortrine under unfavorable, night conditions.

Hearing this, Wei's expression turned furious. It was certain that the children's head would have another bump after they were scolded. Wei wouldn't let the children's misdeeds slide as it endangered other people's lives. Wei decided to use this opportunity to drill into the children just how serious and rash their actions were as it almost caused a group of adventurers to lose their lives

「I'm going to have to punish them again after this」(Wei)

「Please give them a proper scolding」(Kousuke)

Kousuke admired the children for going to such extent for a family member, but was in favor of the scolding as he did not want to see them do something similar in the future.

「Leaving that aside, not giving you a reward seems improper still」(Wei)

「Eh.. We're coming back to that topic?」(Kousuke)

「Isn't it a crucial thing for an adventurer?」(Wei)

「Yes yes! It is a very important matter Kousuke-san」(Viare)

「I understand that's the case, but this time it was a bit different」(Kousuke)

Seeing how adamantly Kousuke was refusing the reward Wei could only sympathize with his feelings. It's undeniable that Wei is under financial pressures, but there's no disdain in Kousuke's refusal and left him feeling no discomfort from Kousuke's pity. Wei felt that he should respect his choice.

「Please wait a moment then」(Wei)

「Yes?」(Kousuke)

Wei went back into inside and returned around ten minutes later. In his hand were some black clothing.

「This is what I wore during my adventuring years, let's substitute these as the reward then since it looks like your current attire is in tatters. These clothes are durable and won't tear easily」(Wei)

「These are mementos from your adventuring years' right? There is no possible way I can accept this!」(Kousuke)

「No no, these are just taking up space in the closet so please accept」(Wei)

「…… Then I will humbly accept」 (Kousuke)

『If its just clothing it shouldn't be too expensive』He assumed as he accepted them.

「Thank you very much」(Kousuke)

「No, no, you deserve this as a reward for completing the request, there's no need to thank me」(Wei)

It was a pristine jacket, despite its age it didn't seem like something that was made many years ago.

It was a bit big though, but it didn't hamper his mobility at all.

As he put on the jacket Viare immediately complimented how well it looked on him. Kousuke felt a bit bashful. He once again gave his gratitude to Wei before heading back to the inn.

「Ah, welcome back」(Shidi)

With a bored expression and an elbow on the reception, Shidi spotted Kousuke coming in and called out to him.

「I'm back~」(Kousuke)

「Where did you go? You rushed out last time so it was something really urgent right?」(Shidi)

「Just a small job that needed to be finished quickly」(Kousuke)

「Is the fact that your sword isn't sheathed related to that "small" job?」(Shidi)

「Mhmm. It wouldn't fit in the sheath anymore. Just wondering, can I ask the store I bought this from to repair it?」(Kousuke)

「You can」(Borudosu)

Borudosu answered as he walked down the stairs.

「Ah, Borudosu. Long time no see」(Kousuke)

「Well, I haven't been around town these days. About your sword, Clarice can probably do something about it if you ask her. But, the cost will vary based on the damage. Mind showing me the sword first?」(Borudosu)

Kousuke pulled the sword out of his belt and passed it over for Borudosu to inspect. As Borudosu inspected the sword his eyes started to widen.

「… A lot worse than I expected. Just what did you cut with this?」(Borudosu)

「Violent Barb」(Kousuke)

「So you were at the Western Hollow. I heard Violent Barbs boast high durability, you were able to cut them?」(Borudosu)

「I managed to cut them… Through brute force..」(Kousuke)

Borudosu nodded as he was convinced and impressed at the same time. As long as there's enough force, even with a low quality weapon like this, it was possible to break through anything especially if the person was this stupidly strong.

「Wanna head to Clarice's store now?」(Borudosu)

「I actually want to rest tonight, let's go tomorrow instead」(Kousuke)

Last night since the group of adventurers were all injured Kousuke decided to take the longest night watch. Because of that, even though he wasn't tired, he felt sleepy.

After explaining his situation, he took back his sword and headed to his room. Without changing he collapsed onto his bed and fell asleep. He was awoken by a knock on his door later that evening.

Shaking off his grogginess he opened the door. The person before him was Shidi.

「There are guests for you, Kousuke-san」(Shidi)

「Guests?? Oh.. come to think of it..」(Kousuke)

He remembered about Raycok's group.

「Are they waiting downstairs?」(Kousuke)

「Yup」(Shidi)

He headed downstairs and saw Guts and another adventurer called Hiiro.

「Hey, sorry for making you wait」(Kousuke)

「It wasn't that long, no worries~」(Guts)

「Is that so. So what brings you two here?」(Kousuke)

「We came here to give you this」(Guts)

Guts offered a pouch to Kousuke.

He accepted and peeked into the pouch and saw 30 silver coins in it. It's equivalent to one gold coin! A typical household could survive three months with this much money.

「… Why are you giving me money?」(Kousuke)

「You don’t get it? You did do our request in our stead right? It’s only logical to give you the reward」(Guts)

Kousuke doubted his ears and asked them again and received the same response.

「Did you just give me the full amount?」(Kousuke)

「That’s the full amount, yes」(Hiiro)

Hiiro saluted as he proudly stated that.

『These guys are too kind-hearted』thought Kousuke, feeling helpless.

「Idiots.. these guys are just idiots」(Kousuke)

Guts and Hiiro didn’t catch Kousuke’s muttering.

It may be that he did complete the request on their behalf, but receiving the reward in its entirety only troubled Kousuke so he decided to return half of it to Guts.

「We’re both on the same boat, you also did my request on my behalf. I can only accept half, okay?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke knew if he tried to return the entire reward they would immediately reject it so he tried to return half to Guts instead.

Kousuke’s proposal was actually a very helpful thing for them. Raycok’s injuries lead to some infections and he is currently hospitalized. The infections were unfortunately something magic could not treat so he would need about two weeks to recover. The medical bill for Raycok, living expenses and repair fees,

they were worried how they could cover all of this.

「This time around you need the money to cover the repair costs for your equipment's right? I'm in a similar situation as well so there's no way I could accept the entire reward」(Kousuke)

「This compromise is definitely something we would like, but are you sure?」(Guts)

「I've already received my reward for bringing the children back safely. If I take all of your reward then the only person that benefitted would be myself」(Kousuke)

Being told by Kousuke to not worry about it, Guts and Hiiro gave their gratitude once more before leaving the inn.

Seeing their departing backs, Kousuke wondered if that group will be alright from now on.『The kind-hearted ones are usually taken advantage of…』He thought, but he smacked his own head in admonishment since it seemed rude to criticize them as a junior.『I should be the careful one』Kousuke held this thought in his heart as he returned to his room.

The following morning, Borudosu woke up Kousuke and had breakfast together. Afterwards they headed towards Clarice's store "Chains and Arms". The original plan was to go alone, but Borudosu tagged along since he had some business here as well.

「Welcome!」(Clarice)

While carrying a box of shipments in the back Clarice heard their footsteps and welcomed them.

「Mornin'」(Borudosu)

「Good morning」(Kousuke)

「Long time no see Kousuke. You know you made Onee-san sad by not visiting for so long ya know?」(Clarice)【**TL: Not a real older sister~**】

「Uh.. er.. I'm sorry for not dropping by」(Kousuke)

「Why are you apologizing? She's not the type to get depressed over something like this, she's just messing with you」(Borudosu)

「I'm a person with feelings too you know? Especially when I can't see you Borudosu」(Clarice)

While her eyes burned with fiery passionate desire she prods Borudosu's chest with her finger.

「Your store's been busy right? There's no way you had the time keep anyone in mind with "That" kind of feeling」(Borudosu)

Borudosu laughed as he smoothly denied her words.

Clarice's passion was immediately dampened seeing his reaction. Kousuke noticed her becoming depressed, but Borudosu was completely oblivious to it.

「Is it possibly that he's.. just dense?」(Kousuke)

Clarice's ears perked up as she caught Kousuke's muttering. Clarice, in a low whisper, voiced her complaints to him.

「You noticed? Seriously, this guy just doesn't realize how we feel about him」(Clarice)

「We? There are others that go through the same thing as you do?」(Kousuke)

「Yup. I know there's one more person. She's an adventurer and has more contact with him compared to me but despite that he still hasn't noticed」(Clarice)

「Umm.. I'm sure he'll notice both of your feelings one day. If push comes to shove why not just push him down?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Oh my… Kou-chan… das hawt**】

「That's the absolute last resort. When I can't hold it in anymore I planned to get the other girl and push him down together. I promised to not grab a head start」(Clarice)

「What are you two whispering about?」(Borudosu)【**TL: About you, you idiot**】

「Nothing important. Just some small complaints」(Clarice)

「Complaints? Do you want me to help you with them? You've always taken care of me these days so don't hold back!」(Borudosu)【**TL: Once again, it's you, you idiot**】

Kousuke sighed『This guy… seriously』

「If the opportunity arises. Anyways, what brings you two to my store?」(Clarice)

Clarice pulled herself together and took up a professional attitude.

「I'm here to get my armor repaired. Kousuke needs his sword repaired.」(Borudosu)

Borudosu places the armor he brought onto the counter.

Clarice began a simple inspection of the armor on the counter and finished quickly.

「I can get this fixed by the end of the day」(Clarice)

「As usual, you work really fast, thank you」(Borudosu)

「It's not like I get overloaded with work. Next is Kousuke's sword, can you show me?」(Clarice)

Clarice frowned deeply as she saw the sword's condition.

She inspected it from various angles then sighed.

「This one was abused pretty badly. Next time don't wait for your equipment become like this!」(Clarice)

「I didn't really wait.. It became like this from yesterday's battle」(Kousuke)

「This is a pretty sturdy sword you know? It's impossible to get this damaged in just one day」(Clarice)

「No, no, it's not impossible. He apparently sliced apart a Violent Barb with it. If it's that it's more plausible right?」(Borudosu)

Clarice's expression became serious hearing that.

「He didn't just fight it, but also sliced it apart?」(Clarice)

「You were able to with that sword right Kousuke?」(Borudosu)

Kousuke nodded at the question.

Even Borudosu, who's not a blacksmith, can easily tell that the sword wouldn't get like that if it's just fighting a Violent Barb.

「Assuming that then…」(Clarice)

Clarice swung the sword lightly as she went into deep thought. She stopped inspecting the sword after a few more swings.

「You were able to cut it using brute force right? If you're that reckless then it makes sense why the sword is so damaged. This sword wasn't designed to combat that kind of monster after all」(Clarice)

Even with her years of experience as a blacksmith this was the first time she saw something like this. Despite that, as a professional blacksmith, she managed to correctly guess the reason.

Clarice praised the sword inwardly for not breaking despite what it went through.

「It'll take four days to repair the sword. It's a bit out of my hand so I'll ask my father」(Clarice)

「How much will this cost?」(Kousuke)

「In silver coins… Around six」(Clarice)

Hearing that the repair cost is more than half the sword's original price made Kousuke understand just how reckless he was with it.

He handed over six silver coins to Clarice from the pouch he received yesterday.

「Thank you for your business!」(Clarice)

「That's all I needed for today so I'll head back now. I'll come retrieve it in four days」(Kousuke)

「One second, listen to one of my advice before you go」(Clarice)

Kousuke tried to quickly leave so he wouldn't become a third wheel between Clarice and Borudosu, but was stopped.

「You swung this sword with the intent to smash which is why it's like this now. If you can shift that intent into slicing or cutting then it wouldn't have become like this」(Clarice)

「So I should focus on how I swing my sword from now on, is that it?」(Kousuke)

「It depends, there may be times where it's more effective if you swing it like before. It's not like it's a bad thing to focus on, it may keep your equipment from breaking quickly」(Clarice)

Her statement was definitely trying to debunk the swordsmanship training Kousuke received from Borudosu, but it made some sense seeing the results.

「I'll try to be careful from now on」(Kousuke)

This time, Kousuke was able to leave the store.

While Borudosu was trying to guess as to why Kousuke left so quickly, Clarice understood that he left to give her some time alone with Borudosu.

「I came with him since I was hoping I could find an armor for him」(Borudosu)

「I don't think that'll be necessary」(Clarice)

「Why not? Don't you remember he was asking you questions about armor when I first brought him?」(Borudosu)

「That boy's jacket isn't something the cheap armors here can compare with」(Clarice)

「Is that the case?」(Borudosu)

「Yes. That jacket was made with “Silma’s Cloth”. It’s extremely durable and has high resistance towards slashing and piercing attacks and it’s pretty much fire-proof. It’s priceless. Well, it might prevent the burning but heat will still pass through and it won’t absorb impact based attacks. Still, if you try to buy it be ready to spend at least three gold coins」(Clarice)

「I guess he managed to get some proper armor anyways」(Borudosu)

If Kousuke heard this conversation he would have dashed over to Wei’s place to return the jacket. It was obvious he had no idea the substitute reward he was given was extremely precious.

It would be a while until Kousuke realizes that the jacket he originally thought was just a bit sturdier than other jackets was actually a truly amazing thing.

The sword took five days to repair and the day of his departure arrived.

During those five days Kousuke was doing some agriculture and carpentry work to learn the various basics about them. He felt that those basics would be useful when he returned to Alice’s place.

He learned how to till the field, cultivate and gather crops, and perform some minor home repairs. Since he would basically be a freeloader he wanted to avoid becoming a good-for-nothing.

The other things he did were retrieving the repaired sword, buying some farming tools and visiting the guild. The reason for visiting the guild was to inform them he will not be able to accept any personal requests since he would be leaving the town.

When he visited the guild a lot of people approached him. It was because an adventurer overheard how Kousuke defeated a Violent Barb when Guts was providing a guild staff the request report. Soon after, news about it spread to everyone. A few were skeptical about it but most believed it. This was thanks to the fact that many knew Raycok and his party members weren’t liars.

Back at the inn, while carrying his previous luggage and the newly purchased supplies, Kousuke, Borudosu and Shidi were chatting.

「So it's already been a month」(Shidi)

「Thank you for the hospitality」(Kousuke)

「You're a customer, of course I as an employee would take care of you. Have you decided when you will return here?」(Shidi)

「Mhmm… At the very least I plan on staying home for at least 20 days. There are some new magic I would like to learn and I need to take care of the fields as well. Borodosu, do you have any message you want me to pass to Alice?」(Kousuke)

「I don't have anything to say in particular. Just let her know I'm alive and doing well」(Borudosu)

「Sure thing. Alright then, I'll be heading out now. I'll see you guys later!」(Kousuke)

「Thank you for staying with us」(Shidi)

「See ya」(Borudosu)

The two saw Kousuke off as he left the inn.

Kousuke casted《Flight》on himself and flew up once he left the town's border.

He looked back at the town and could see it in its entirety. Kousuke faced back forward and flew towards Alice's place and at the same time the image of the town showed a slight sign of distorting. The issue that would arise from this phenomena will appear on a later date and Kousuke will be dragged into it to help resolve the issue.

The current Kousuke was ignorant of what will happen and proceeded to fly away from the town at high speed. He instead only felt excitement for the reunion after not seeing them for one month.

ToC

10

Chapter 10 – Disguise ― Infiltration ― I’m Beautiful?

「I can finally see it」(Kousuke)

Kousuke could finally see Alice’s home as he flew forward.

『Looks like nothing changed since I left』Kousuke thought, but realized it was just a month so nothing should be different.

He began to descend towards the front door. As he tried to land he ended up smashing face first into an invisible wall instead and immediately started to fall.

「Ow.. that hurt..」(Kousuke)

Kousuke stood up while rubbing his face. Luckily, there were no serious wounds thanks to his superhuman specs. He only exclaimed being in pain out of habit.

「What is this?」(Kousuke)

He pressed his hands onto the wall and felt it repulsing his advance, it seemed he had no way of getting past it.

The sensation on his hands touching the wall was neither hot nor cold and it was perfectly smooth. He confirmed that the wall was quite thick and sturdy through random tapping. This invisible wall seemed like a giant, thick glass building surrounding the house.

Kousuke punched the wall with some strength and heard it groan and creak from the impact.

「It might break if I hit it any harder. Let's not do that」(Kousuke)

Kousuke figured that Alice erected this barrier with a purpose in mind. He didn't want Alice to scold him so he decided against taking any actions that may inconvenience her.

「They're probably not home if they're putting this thing up」(Kousuke)

He had no idea what to do if that was the case. However, since he couldn't figure out what to do in this situation, he decided to pick something randomly.

Becoming curious about the barrier's shape, he decided to investigate it further.

He continually tapped and felt the barrier and finished his investigation in about thirty minutes. The barrier's shape is a cube. He didn't find any gaps so it seems there's no way he can currently enter.【**TL: Headbutt, do it** 】

He didn't see any signs of those two being home while investigating so he concluded that his previous guess was correct.

「What should I do now…?」(Kousuke)

Not knowing when they will return, Kousuke considered heading towards the town, Ricardo, instead. He had enough savings to last for about ten days on hand.

「I guess I'll wait until the sun starts to set before heading to town」(Kousuke)

Deciding to wait a bit, Kousuke placed his luggage down. Since he got some

free time until sunset he unsheathed his sword to gather some fencings to set up a farm plot.

The sword, with only small, minor scratches left, was restored rather well.

「That reminds me.. She wanted me to focus on cutting when I swing」(Kousuke)

He headed towards a nearby tree as he kept muttering「Cut? Slice?」quietly.

In his mind the way to use a kitchen knife suddenly appeared.『The knife's edge on the ingredient… Add a little pressure and pull the knife to slice…』He planned to do something similar to the tree with his sword.

He warmed up his arm with a few swings and stood in front of the tree.

「Cut through!」(Kousuke)

While shouting, Kousuke swung his sword at the base of the tree.

The tree began to topple over slowly. He was able to brilliantly cut the tree down with one swing. However, he couldn't tell if he was able to do it correctly since he wasn't sure of the differences between a smashing swing and a cutting swing.

『Is it something like this?』He pondered as he carried up the fallen tree onto his shoulder. It was certain that he couldn't test this out numerous times. He didn't need to chop down much in the first place and if he started to randomly deforest the area then Alice would obviously be furious.

He carried the tree back to where his luggage was, removed the branches, and chopped up the tree into smaller logs. He tied up the removed branches together before processing the logs further.

As Kousuke was processing the logs into fence pieces someone's shadow appeared in front of him.

「Welcome back」(Unknown)

Kousuke looked up at the direction of the greeting and saw Alice floating in the air.

「Ah, I'm back. And welcome back!」(Kousuke)

「Mm, thanks. What are you doing?」(Alice)

「I was making some fencings to surround a farm plot. By the way, I had to cut down one tree for this. I might need to cut down one more later, it's not a problem right?」(Kousuke)「I don't mind. But why farming? Did you make some good memories in the city about farming?」

「Not really. Since I'm just a freeloader here I wanted to help out with the food expenses a bit」(Kousuke)「You know I'm filthy rich right? Money is the least of my concern. I won't stop you though since I would like to have something fresh from time to time. Work hard and feed me something delicious alright? The only bad news is that you should have started this about two months ago」(Alice)「Why?」(Kousuke)

「It's because we're heading to Ricardo now」(Alice)

Alice tapped the barrier and dispelled it. She led him into her home to help unpack.

「You can leave your farming tools here for now. Just bring some changes of clothes and money」(Alice)「Oh, about the money」(Kousuke)

Kousuke pulled out a pouch and handed it over to Alice.

「Here's the money you lent me」(Kousuke)

Alice inspected the pouch's content then handed it back to him.

「Huh?」(Kousuke)

「You passed the test. You shouldn't have any trouble living on your own now. As a reward, the money I lent you is yours now」(Alice) 「You sure?」(Kousuke)

「I told you already I'm filthy rich. The money for the sword and living expense I lent you won't dent my bank at all. I intended to give you the money in the first place. I only said I'll loan it to you so you would work harder」(Alice) 「That's true, it really did motivate me」(Kousuke)

"Here's to cover your living expenses". "Make sure you make at least this much money". If he was told differently Kousuke knew he would have slacked off. The word "Loan" really did help motivate him to work.

Feeling convinced of her reason, Kousuke went to his room to prepare before heading back to the living room with his luggage.

「I finished packing. Before we go, can you tell me why?」(Kousuke)

「Mhmm. I have no objections in telling you. Have a seat first」(Alice)

Once he sat down Alice began to explain.

「The reason I'm taking you with me to the city is related to Horun not being here. Horun went back home and is unable to leave at the moment. She's not hurt or anything though」(Alice)

Kousuke's expression changed hearing Horun's inability to leave so Alice tried to calm him down with that last comment.

「Her father isn't letting her leave. Horun just wanted to visit her parents, but her father is planning on using her for his political agenda. In other words, through political marriage. Oh, but it's not like she'll get married anytime soon. It's still in the matchmaking phase. Of course, Horun's opinion doesn't matter here since the father is choosing」(Alice)

There are a lot of nobles who have their eyes on Horun. Being able to gain connection with a count or earl through this marriage would blind most with greed. The benefits involved were too great for the nobles to ignore. Horun's healing abilities, her future potential, and gaining more connections through her family, who among the nobles could resist this?

There were some that wanted Horun for good luck as well. She was able to avert the impossible and it instilled the notion that she may be blessed with something to ward off destruction. For the survival of their bloodline, many families would happily welcome someone like her as a daughter-in-law.

The father is planning on sifting through these various nobles to find the one with the most benefits for himself.

「Marriage huh… What's Horun's thoughts on this?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke wasn't too familiar with the notion of political marriage so his reaction could be seen as weak.

「Obviously she doesn't want anything to do with this. But Rafael doesn't care about what she thinks about this」(Alice) 「Rafael is her father's name?」(Kousuke)

Alice frowned as she nodded.

「Ignoring her opinion, wouldn't the marriage fail as a result?」(Kousuke)

「I told you it was a political marriage right? The marriage will work out as long as both family benefits. The opinion of the couple? They don't give a damn about it. Plus, marriage through love among nobility isn't common」(Alice) 「Nobility and the such didn't exist around where I grew up so I'm really unfamiliar with this situation」(Kousuke)

Alice told him he doesn't really need to know much more than what was already explained. The real reason for this talk wasn't to discuss about the inner workings of the nobles after all.

「We got off track, let's return to the main topic. I'm bringing you with me so you could protect Horun as her personal guard. As long as you protect her, I will be able to freely move」(Alice) 「Horun doesn't have any bodyguards right now?」(Kousuke)

「She does, but they're all Rafael's underlings. They're definitely there to keep their eyes on Horun during the marriage interview. It's pretty obvious they will pressure her. Therefore, having your presence beside her is essential in helping her stay calm. Those are just be a part of your job though」(Alice) 「What else do you want me to do?」(Kousuke)

「I'm going to need your help when I break her out of the mansion」(Alice)

「… Wouldn't that make the situation even more serious?」(Kousuke)

「If we succeed in escaping, probably yes」(Alice)

She nodded happily.

「The last thing I want is a wanted poster with my face on it!」(Kousuke)

「I'll have everything prepared for the operation so you don't have to worry so much. I'll have a disguise prepared for you as well. No one will be able to tell it's you. Plus, it's not set in stone that we'll have to break her out. If my negotiation with Rafael is successful then Horun can leave the mansion without a problem」

(Alice)「Negotiation?」(Kousuke)

「That's something Horun and I will take care of. You just need to focus on keeping Horun safe」(Alice)「By the way, what will you be negotiating with?」(Kousuke)

Being told to keep it a secret, Alice revealed to him the details.

「Rafael holds a surprisingly high status as a diplomat. The reason for his status is Horun. I told you how skilled of a healer she is right? There are many who have high expectations out of her to the point that there are numerous request for her medical examinations. The people who requests for her medical examinations are those with a lot of power and status. Rafael took advantage of this and went with her on one of the visits to further his status as a diplomat. He was able to deepen his connections by being very charismatic, but it was all thanks to Horun that he succeeded. The other parties know this already though. Since the other parties actually owe Horun the favor, it is possible to get them to support her instead of Rafael, even if it puts Rafael in a disadvantageous position. We plan on "warning" Rafael about that」(Alice)「So you're going to basically blackmail him」(Kousuke)

「Ohohoho. It's just a negotiation about an uncertain future」(Alice)

「But.. Will Horun do something that would be detrimental to her own household?」(Kousuke)「She probably won't do something that'll destroy the household and I don't plan on letting that happen. If it's something that causes Rafael's position to drop a bit I'm certain the household won't collapse. If it works out, he'll have to take into account Horun's opinion if he wants to make connections through those medical examinations. Well, it's not like I plan on using this negotiation material off the bat」(Alice)

Depending on how the situation develops, Alice may use her connections to pressure Rafael as well.

Despite what he's done, it's not like Alice hates Rafael, but she definitely doesn't like him. She probably doesn't care much about him in the first place.

The reason why she's interfering is because she despises parents who completely ignore their children's wishes. Alice was an abandoned child. Her suffering as a child originated from growing up at an orphanage.

During her youth, she harbored deep resentment towards the existence of parents. She calmed down a bit as she grew up seeing that there were decent parents as well.

This was also the reason why Alice doesn't allow Borudosu to call her mother.

「If it's for Horun's sake then I'll keep quiet about it」(Kousuke)

「I can't say it'll be for her sake yet though. We can't ignore the possibility that the marriage can become successful. But, as far as Horun is concerned, she doesn't want to marry yet so since that's the case I plan on helping her」(Alice)
「I've been in Horun's care before and wish to help her as well. I have no objections about this plan」(Kousuke)

With the discussion finished the two headed out.

After Alice erected the barrier once more, she called Kousuke over and casted some sort of magic on him.

「What kind of magic did you just use on me?!? Why is my voice a little high?!」(Kousuke)

Trying to get Alice to explain what kind of magic was casted on him, Kousuke noticed his voice was a bit higher than usual.

「I casted two. One's an illusion magic, the other one changes your voice」(Alice)

Kousuke quickly guessed what kind of appearance he currently has and it was as he thought.

Right now Kousuke's appearance is that of a woman. She looked around

fifteen of age. Black hair that grew down to the shoulder in a bob cut fashion. The body's frame was a bit smaller and the height a bit shorter. The eyes were big, the nose was small and the lips were pink and plump. Eight out of ten people would definitely consider this girl as pretty.

The only unusual characteristic was the eye color. The right was black and the left was blue. She gave him an "odd eye" with a purpose in mind it seemed.

Since there weren't any mirrors around, Kousuke had yet to understand how different he really looked.

Alice chose this appearance for him because being beautiful has its advantage for the operation. People would be more willing to turn a blind eye towards a beauty's action, even if it's a bit suspicious.

Everything was planned to give Kousuke as much advantage as possible.

「This is the disguise?」(Kousuke-chwan)

「Amazing right? Not only can it trick others into thinking you're the opposite gender, the body you have is pretty much real and will feel things like a real body」(Alice)

Kousuke confirmed this by touching his arm and chest. Even though he got to grope a breast, he wasn't happy knowing that it was his own.

「The magic won't just suddenly end right? And is there a way to tell that I'm disguised with magic?」

「Just cast it on yourself each time it expires. The disguise should last around four hours. It'll probably be discovered you're using magic on yourself. No worries though, you'll trick them by saying you're using magic to seal your "Demon Eye"」(Alice)「Demon.. Eye?」(Kousuke)

He then came to know about the "odd eye" he has.

"Demon Eye" is a gift someone may have. There are various types of abilities

associated with it like being able to see things as if in slow motion, being able to see extremely far, or being able to unravel the truth.

All wielders of a “Demon Eye”, are without exceptions, heterochromatic. It’s also a common practice to have the “Demon Eye’s” power sealed using magic or magic tools. The wielder can turn it on or off at any time, but it can accidently turn on for a brief moment. To prevent any accidents, the wielder would keep the eye sealed unless they absolutely needed to use it.

「I see, so what’s the ability my “Demon Eye” has in case I’m asked?」(Kousuke)

「Superior dynamic vision should be fine. I’m sure you can already do something similar」(Alice)

Since the plan wasn’t to just showcase the “Demon Eye”, other small details like this were discussed.

The two casted《Flight》and flew towards Ricardo.

It was almost dusk when they reached the town.

Alice led the way the through the town dyed with a vibrant night life. Their destination was an extremely expensive looking inn.

Alice grabbed a key from the reception and passed it over to Kousuke. It seemed she rented out two rooms next to each other earlier.

「This is your room’s key. This place will be our base of operation for a while so try to keep the address memorized」(Alice)「Got it」(Kousuke)

This inn operated similarly to Shidi’s inn. The only difference would be that there’s a bath in the room and they deliver the meals to the room as well. They’ll also do your laundry, but this time around to prevent detection he’ll have to do it himself.

He unpacked his things into his room then headed to Alice’s.

Apparently there was someone Alice wanted him to meet, but since the person

was taking too long the two of them discussed what Kousuke did for the past month.

While they talked, dinner was brought to their room.

「You could have just accepted a big job to easily get a lot of money」(Alice)

「Safety first」(Kousuke)

「You say that but you ended up fighting against a Violent Barb, pretty sure that wasn't safe」(Alice) 「Choosing to abandon them.. I doubt I can ever do that」(Kousuke)

「That may be so. Still, to be able to uproot a Violent Barb… I never heard anyone doing that before. It's a method only useable for people with superhuman strength」(Alice) 「How do people normally defeat it?」(Kousuke)

「Usually with magic or poison. Use a magic that can pierce into the ground to kill it or heat the earth to smoke it out of the ground. You can also poison it with a strong herbicide by injecting it into one of its roots, it'll take some time though. You weren't taught these things before so I told you that you can't defeat it」(Alice)

A knock from the door resounded through the room.

Alice opened the door and saw one of the inn's staff.

「Pardon the intrusion Ms. Alice but there's a guest requesting to visit you. Shall I allow the guest through?」(Staff) 「The person that came is an elderly woman correct?」(Alice)

「Yes」(Staff)

「Then allow her to pass」(Alice)

The inn staff bowed and left at the response.

Five minutes later an old woman with a calm demeanor was lead to Alice's room by the inn's staff. Kousuke noticed that this elderly woman's appearance

was similar to how his disguise looked.

「Kousuke, let me introduce her to you. She's Horun's attendant, Gretzel. Tomorrow I'll have you enter the mansion under the identity of Gretzel's granddaughter」(Alice)

Gretzel has a granddaughter, but she doesn't have a grandson. This information is known to Rafael and his subordinates. To infiltrate the mansion it became necessary to basically cross dress for Kousuke.

「Umm.. It's nice to meet you, my name is Watase Kousuke」(Kousuke)

Seeing Kousuke bowing, Gretzel returned one as well.

「Nice to meet you as well, I'm Gretzel Norman. I apologize for dragging you into this mess」(Gretzel) 「Gretzel has taken care of Horun since she was a baby. She basically views Horun as if she's her daughter. So despite Rafael being her employer she wishes to side with Horun instead and decided to assist us with our operation」(Alice) 「Ojousama doesn't want to marry so of course I'll provide assistance」(Gretzel)

Her attitude and manner really showed that Horun was her number one concern.

「Why do I need to be considered as Mrs. Gretzel's granddaughter to enter the mansion? Wouldn't it be the same thing if either of you simply recommended me the job?」(Kousuke) 「Alice's family is in the mansion as well as someone pregnant. It'll be very difficult to try to get some unknown person into the mansion. So we'll use the pretext that Gretzel is having trouble working due to her age for your entry as the granddaughter coming here to assist her. The years Gretzel here has worked in the mansion has earned her a great deal of trust.

They'll assume it'll be alright since its Gretzel's granddaughter so they'll be lax with your background check」(Alice)

Rafael doesn't harbor any suspicion towards Gretzel at the moment since she has not voiced her disapproval of Horun's political marriage.

「I've already received Rafael-sama's permission on this matter. It's also a fact that work these days is taking a toll on me」(Gretzel) 「Kousuke, tomorrow you will act as though Gretzel is your grandmother and your name will be Yui. Don't forget this alright?」(Alice) 「I'll try my best」(Kousuke)

This will be his first time acting. He started to feel nervous thinking he might screw up. He's never acted in a play before, even an elementary school one.

Seeing him fretting about, Gretzel gave him a comforting smile.

「You don't have to be so nervous. There's no one in the mansion that knows Yui so even if your behavior isn't like hers, no one will notice. You just need to remember the names, speak politely and never openly be rude to anyone else. Majority of the job just requires you to attend Ojousama, also some small housework and garden maintenance. Quite simple right?」(Gretzel) 「… If it's just that then I should be fine」(Kousuke)

Kousuke inquired further about the details of the mansion and felt a little relieved.

「By the way, does my current appearance match your granddaughter?」(Kousuke)

「There is no resemblance at all. She is definitely good looking, but pales in comparison to you」(Gretzel)

Apparently, the real Yui's appearance did not take after Gretzel's side of the

family but of another's instead.

As they continued the discussion a doubt arose in his mind which lead him to inquire further about Gretzel's family. It was just in case since he probably didn't need to know the details of Gretzel's family relationships.

Gretzel headed back to the mansion about an hour later. She wanted to inform Horun that Kousuke will be working at the mansion starting tomorrow.

When Gretzel left, Alice taught Kousuke how to cast the illusion spell to maintain his disguise. Alice dispelled his current disguise and asked him to cast it himself to make sure there aren't any discrepancies.

After making two small adjustments he got her "Okay" and headed back to his room.

It's been decided he will go to the mansion tomorrow morning around 8 o'clock.

The following day, Kousuke woke up on time and is currently standing in front of the mansion. Of course, with his disguise on. He's wearing the woman's clothing he received last night. He felt a bit uncomfortable wearing something he's not used to, a skirt.

Alice is currently speaking with the gatekeeper to get Gretzel for them. If Alice was alone she could pass through without any issues, but she has Kousuke with him so she needed to get permission for him first.

While waiting for Gretzel, Kousuke was observing the mansion. Ever since he came to this world, it was by far the largest building he's seen so far. The front courtyard was so big it could probably fit the neighboring houses onto it with ease.

The main building has three floors and the windows were fitted with glass. Kousuke was able to see a few faint presences of people through the windows. There were two side buildings, both of which were above average in size compared to the nearby houses. In the front courtyard were three gardeners taking care of the flower beds. There was even someone taking care of a horse.

While absentmindedly taking in the view, Gretzel came out from one of the side buildings. Gretzel approached the front gate slowly and testified that Kousuke is her granddaughter. Kousuke was able to go through the front gate after that.

He was amazed at how big the courtyard was from the inside.

「Horun is currently living separately from the main building」(Gretzel)

Gretzel responded seeing Kousuke's questioning face as he stared at the main building.

「I didn't even say anything.. How did you figure that out?」(Kousuke)

「You were staring at the mansion in an odd way so anyone would be able to figure that out」(Alice)

Hearing Alice's response he suppressed the emotions on his face.

「My expression was that obvious?」(Kousuke)

Gretzel smiled at Kousuke. She seemed amused by Kousuke's expression and gave off a pleasant aura.

「Ojousama is not living in the main building for the purpose of security. The main building usually have many noble guests visiting throughout the day. To prevent the opportunity for any of them to creep into her room, we relocated her living quarters. To begin with, that separated building was for Ojousama's use so it wasn't inconvenient for her to move into it」(Gretzel) 「Were there past cases like that?」(Kousuke)

「There are some foolish individuals that think if they do that to force the marriage through *after the* fact and come here under the false pretense of a

marriage interview. In fact, two people were thrown out so far for attempting」(Gretzel)

As they conversed they arrived at the separated building.

They gave a light greeting to Rafael's security force as they entered the building. Two maids inside were bustling about cleaning the place. The two maids, one had short, red hair that looked slightly older and the other had long, white hair.

「Meryl, Serena. Please come here for a moment」(Gretzel)

Gretzel called the two maids over.

The two maids were introduced to Kousuke by Gretzel.

「As you were told earlier, this child is here to assist me with my work starting from today. Even though it'll only be for a short while please get along with her. Come here and introduce yourself」(Gretzel)「Nice to meet you, my name is Yui. I may be inexperienced and lacking in some aspects but I will work hard and do my best. I look forward to working with the two of you」(Kousuke)「My name's Meryl. Best regards」(Meryl)

「My name is Serena. I look forward to working with you as well」(Serena)

Thinking Kousuke might be nervous, the two maids gave him a friendly introduction.

Meryl's the redhead, it seemed she's at least 20 years old. Serena's the white haired one, she seemed around 17.**【TL: I didn't want to write "Whitehead", seemed nasty】**

「Since that's done, please continue with the cleaning. I'll need both of you to give this child various instructions later on, I'll be relying on you two」(Gretzel)

「Please leave it to us」(Meryl)

「We'll thoroughly teach her the ropes」(Serena)

Both of them bowed and Serena waved at Kousuke before heading back to cleaning.

「They're very good girls, they make my life easier. Alright, follow me, I'll take you to the room Ojousama is currently in」(Gretzel)

They climbed up the left hand stairs and knocked on the room furthest down on the right before entering. The room was a study with bookshelves and shelves with various apparatuses displayed. Towards the end of the room was a table with a very comfortable looking chair next to it. Horun was seated there while reading a book.

「Ojousama. I've brought Alice and Yui here for you」(Gretzel)**【TL: I actually forgot Alice came along】**

Since they couldn't be certain who might be listening even inside this building, they kept up the charade that Kousuke is Yui.

Horun placed the book down and stood up to greet them.

「You must be Gretzel-san's granddaughter. I have been under Gretzel-san's care ever since I was a child. I will be in your care as well」(Horun)

She approached them as she greeted and grasps Kousuke's hand. And whispers softly, "Welcome back" to him.

Kousuke nods slightly at her before greeting her back as Yui.

「You guys can stop worrying about the surroundings. There's no one lurking

nearby」(Alice)

Alice used her magic to inspect the nearby area and gave permission to relax for now.

「Alice, thank you. Once again, welcome back Kousuke」(Horun)

「I'm back. How should put this… seems like it's quite a messy situation huh?」(Kousuke)「Since Alice is able to freely move now I'm sure there will be no more problems」(Horun)「Are you alright with the marriage interview being cancelled?」(Kousuke)

「If I was a typical noble then a political marriage may be an obligation I must fulfill. But I feel that my responsibilities as a noble is already finished. The only obligation I was given to fulfill was to be a sacrifice and since I've already fulfilled that obligation I feel that I deserve to be live freely. I'm probably only thinking this way because I was never raised and educated to be a noble in the first place.」(Horun)

The talk of a marriage interview was simply a stroke of good luck Rafael stumbled upon and won't cause him any serious losses if were to disappear. Compared to a marriage interview failing which can be played off by saying they aren't compatible, the worst would be cancelling an engagement right before the deadline. Crushing the marriage interview before it becomes an engagement will prevent Rafael's loss from being too great.

So for Horun, who has no intention to marry yet, she has no reason to reject the plan to crush the marriage interview.

「Ojousama, would it alright if I may bring Kousuke downstairs to the begin working with the other two?」(Gretzel)「Do you think they'll become suspicious if it takes any longer? Sorry Kousuke, let's continue our conversation later then. I'm looking forward to hearing about what you did during the past month」(Horun)

Horun continued her reading as the rest left.

「Well then, Yui, please follow those two's instructions from now on」(Gretzel)

Kousuke nodded and headed towards the two maids that were still cleaning.

Alice and Gretzel headed to the main building to report to Rafael about Kousuke's (Yui's) arrival.

ToC

11

Hi everyone!

So.. There's one special character in this chapter.. You'll see when you see his first appearance. He talks a bit weird so I hope you guys can bear with it!

Without further ado~ ENJOY!

Monk

P.S. SORRY! I just noticed the spacing was super tight, I fixed it so it's easier to read.

Chapter 11: "I did not see the Housekeeper"

Noticing Kousuke's approach, Serena stopped cleaning.

「Ah, so you finally came. Meryl-san, I'll give her the run-down so you can continue with your work」(Serena) 「Are you sure?」(Meryl)

「Of course! Just myself explaining and demonstrating will be sufficient」(Serena)

「I see. Then I thank you」(Meryl)

「No problem! Now then, let's immediately begin with the explanation」(Serena)

「Please provide me with guidance」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Mhmm, mhmm, it seems the day that I finally received a junior has come!」(Serena)

Serena was nodding as her true feelings exploded out.

「My guidance will be very strict, I hope you can keep up!」(Serena)

「I was born to become a maid, nothing can stop me!」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke proudly announced as he flicked his hair and stuck out his chest. Since it seemed like Serena was strutting proudly, Kousuke played along.

「Oh wow, wow! I like your attitude. I think we'll get along just fine」(Serena)

「Stop horsing around and get to work!」(Meryl)

「Ack!」(Serena)

Meryl smacks Serena's head lightly with her duster.

「I'm sorry」(Serena)

「It's fine as long as you understand. Yui-san, its fine to cut loose around us, but please try to keep it within reasonable limits. The only person who will not reproach you for misbehaving in this household is Ojousama」(Meryl)「Is that so?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Yes, Rafael-sama and the rest of the family expect the servants to act as servants should. It's a normal expectation the nobles have from us. If they see you causing a ruckus.. A scolding is expected but your wages may be cut too」(Meryl)「I'll be careful then」(Kousuke/Yui)

With a serious expression Kousuke nodded. Meryl nodded back as she began to clean once more.

「Well.. I guess I went too far there. Alright then! Let's start again from the start!」(Serena)「Yes」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Our work.. I mean your work priorities today will be focused over here. Since you're here to assist Gretzel-san it's expected. You'll be handling her housework responsibilities except for cooking. The meals are prepared by a chef in the main building so we don't have to worry about it. We have a kitchen here as well if you're ever interested in preparing something. Gretzel-san makes us small treats sometime. On occasion, the main building will be short-staffed and will request our assistance, but that hardly happens and Meryl and I will go so you don't to worry too much about it」(Serena) 「So you're saying I won't have to go to the main building in the future?」(Kousuke/Yui)

Hearing Kousuke's question, Serena shakes her head.

「You'll be required to go to the main building for non-work related reasons. The servant's dining area and bath are over there. The servant's living quarter is there as well, but since you're here to assist Gretzel-san you will most likely be staying in this building with her」(Serena) 「Is that so? But I already have a room rented at an inn」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Really? Do you plan on commuting from there? Why don't you ask Gretzel-san about it then?」(Serena) 「Right, I should ask her」(Kousuke/Yui)

Being explained briefly the contents of the work, Serena also provided some behavioral guidelines in front of the nobles. Kousuke's work began afterwards. Since he had to wait for Gretzel to come back, Serena was providing him some pointers on where and how to clean.

The way she taught him clearly showed her expertise on the matter, but in Kousuke's case, his performance paled in comparison. It couldn't be helped since he's never done this before. Back on Earth, he's done some simple cleaning before, but here he was surrounded by expensive looking objects and couldn't help but feel nervous. Seeing how overly timid Kousuke was, Serena and Meryl guided him without rushing. They've experienced the same thing when they first started and understood exactly what he was going through. Rushing would only bring about mistakes.

Despite Kousuke's inexperience, he didn't make any mistake and the three

were able to finish cleaning faster than usual.

「With this, the interior cleaning is complete. We'll take a short break before we sweep the leaves outside. After that is lunch and laundry!」(Serena)「Roger that!」(Kousuke/Yui)

They stored away the cleaning tools and headed to the break room where they began to idly chat. To say that they chatted, for Kousuke's case he had no idea what to say if it proceeded to "Girl-talks" since he was a man. Luckily, the conversation focused primarily on each other's hobbies and the likes, but he was nervous about their future chats.

With Kousuke being given another worry to consider, their break ended. The three grabbed a rake and broom as they headed out of the mansion.

The cleanup of the yard was relatively simple and ended quickly. It felt like there was more they could do like removing the weeds, but Meryl and Serena didn't seem to bother. Feeling curious, Kousuke inquired about it and was told by Meryl that it's the responsibility of the gardeners.

「There's only a little growing so it wouldn't take us too much time to do it ourselves right? Why make the gardeners come all the way over here just for that?」(Kousuke/Yui)「I understand how you feel, but that's the gardener's work territory. They have their own plans on how to maintain the courtyard. There's a possibility they planned for the weeds to grow for the purpose of creating a specific scenery a few months later. If we removed the weeds now it's likely that we will be ruining their months' worth of planning. It would be regretful if that were to happen correct? So, to prevent any mix ups, we will only do the simple clean up unless we were asked to do otherwise」(Meryl)「I understand now. Sorry for being presumptuous」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Don't worry about it. I was told the same thing from a senior when I first started」(Meryl)

Meryl answered Kousuke in a nostalgic tone.

It seemed that it was a commonly asked question, even Serena and Gretzel asked when they first began.

The three brushed off the dust and dirt on them before heading to the main building for lunch. There was an hour before lunch would be served so the two took this opportunity to give Kousuke a tour of the main building.

He was guided to where the storehouse, bathhouse, restroom and servant's living quarters were. The timing was perfect when he was shown the restroom though. He went into one of the stalls to recast the disguise magic. It was just about to expire.

Their final destination was the dining area. The three took a seat since lunch was almost ready.

He thought back and realized the specific bathhouse he was shown was women only. Kousuke started to break out in cold sweat, but steeled himself since he had to maintain appearance if he wanted to stay. The restroom is still safe since there were stalls, but the bathhouse would have too many people so in his mind it was "out".

Seeing Kousuke's worried expression, Serena spoke up.

「You seem to be worried over something, is everything alright?」(Serena)

「Ye..yes」(Kousuke/Yui)

『If my disguise gets seen through I'll be treated as a pervert!』Kousuke felt, but he couldn't exactly say this aloud. He shook his head, trying to convey nothing is wrong.

「Really? If you have any problems please feel free to tell us」(Serena)

「Okay」(Kousuke/Yui)

He couldn't discuss what he was fretting over right now, but in the future he

decided if anything else cropped up he definitely would.【**TL: Pretty sure something will "crop up" in your situation Kou-chan** 】

The three finished eating and went to receive the meal made for Horun. As an extra they also took some cookies for their 3 o'clock snack time. These cookies were originally for Horun, but the shapes didn't come out well so Kousuke received them. The chefs gave Kousuke the cookies as a service since it was his first day on the job.

It seemed Gretzel already returned when the three made it back to Horun's mansion. Alice wasn't around since she went out to eat.

「Gretzel-san, I have something I would like to ask you」(Serena)

「What is it?」(Gretzel)

「Where is Yui going to be staying?」(Serena)

「At the inn」(Gretzel)

She responded instantly.

Gretzel originally planned for Kousuke to stay at the servant's living quarters. But there's a good chance his identity would be revealed if he stayed there and living in Horun's mansion would require him to bathe with others so the only option left was the inn.

Alice and Gretzel knew Kousuke would worry about this so they planned ahead for his sake.

The only issue with this plan was that he wouldn't be able to protect Horun during the evening. Alice, with Rafael's permission, was allowed to cast an alarm magic on the mansion and hoped that the current guards would do their jobs well.

「I don't see any problems with her living with us though. Staying at the inn constantly will end up costing a lot right?」(Serena)「Her employment here is

temporary so it would be a bit wasteful to prepare a room for her here. The inn's rent was discounted since it's for a long-term stay and I'll be combining my wage with Yui's so there's not much burden. Her working here is to give her some good experience and manners, money is just an extra」(Gretzel)「I understand that Gretzel-san accepts this condition, but I feel that it's still wasteful spending」(Serena)

Serena voiced her concern feeling that Gretzel was giving an excuse to be needlessly strict.

「Let's drop this for now, there's still the laundry to do right?」(Gretzel)

「Yes」(Serena)

「I'll be taking Yui to Ojousama's room so please do the laundry with Meryl」(Gretzel)「I understand. But why is Yui needed at Ojousama's room?」(Meryl)

Meryl questioned with a doubtful expression.

「She's going to be assisting her with medicine making. Yui knows the basics and is aspiring to be a pharmacist」(Gretzel)

Convinced with the reason, Meryl and Serena headed out to do the laundry.

Kousuke and Gretzel headed to the second floor. Kousuke brought a tray with Horun's meal on it.

「Ojousama, we've brought you your lunch」(Gretzel)

「Thank you」(Horun)

「I'll be downstairs if you need me. Yui, please bring the dishes back to the dining area afterwards」(Gretzel)「I understand」(Kousuke/Yui)

Gretzel bows before heading out.

Horun confirmed that the door was shut before whispering over to Kousuke.

「Alice instructed me that as long as we whisper no one will be able to eavesdrop」(Horun)「Got it」(Kousuke/Yui)

「How was the work this morning?」(Horun)

「At the moment, there aren't any problems. Rather, I'm more worried about how I'm supposed to chat with the others」(Kousuke/Yui)「Chat?」(Horun)

「I can't keep up with women's talk」(Kousuke/Yui)

Since Meryl and Serena view Kousuke as a woman, whenever they speak to him his head would spin trying to figure out how to respond as a woman.

Apparently though, as long as he's not openly suspicious, it's fine to sound a bit tomboyish. It's "Yui's" first time meeting Meryl and Serena so as long as "she" is consistent with "her" personality and tone they will just assume that's the way "she" is.

「I see. I don't have too many friends myself so I can't give you any reasonable advice in this matter. But as long as your disguise isn't discovered I'm sure been seen as a bit unusual is fine」(Horun)「Is that really the case? Just to be safe I'll ask Alice too when I get back to the inn」(Kousuke/Yui)「That's a good idea」(Horun)

They stopped their conversation here so Horun could eat her meal before it gets cold.

While she was eating Kousuke was searching through the various books on the shelf. The bookshelves had various genres from medical journals to children's picture books, with the former in larger abundance.

Kousuke randomly grabbed a children's picture book and opened it. It was titled "Miku and the Distorted House". The story was as such, Miku snuck into an

abandoned, dilapidated house but it became distorted and trapped Miku inside. With the help of various animals Miku is able to escape.

「What are you reading?」(Horun)

Horun, who finished eating, spoke up.

He held up the book to show Horun the title. Her expression softens seeing the title.

「How nostalgic. Elder brother gave me that book as a present」(Horun)

「It must be important to you then」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Very. That reminds me, you're able to read now?」(Horun)

「Not completely, I'm still studying」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Please do your best since it doesn't hurt to learn how to read」(Horun)

Before they continued with their conversation, Kousuke placed the book back on the bookshelf and brought the tray back to the kitchen. He passed the message to the chefs from Horun that the meal was delicious before heading back to her mansion.

Kousuke divulged Horun's curiosity of what he's done in the past month in St. Beria.

When he reached the part about rescuing the children from the orphanage a knock came from the door.

「Please enter」(Horun)

「Please excuse my intrusion」(Meryl)

Meryl bowed as she entered the room.

「Would it be possible to borrow Yui's presence for a moment?」(Meryl)

「Is there some work for Yui?」(Horun)

「I was planning to bring you some tea so I wanted to take this opportunity to teach her how to make some」(Meryl)「Yui」(Horun)

Horun's eye told Kousuke to go. He stood up and headed out with Meryl.

In the first floor's kitchen, Meryl showed Kousuke the various tea leaves as well as their preparation methods. She also showed him Horun's favorites. She taught him more things like the proper use measuring of sugar and the way to pour fragrant liquor.

「Give it a try yourself, I'll explain again as you proceed」(Meryl)

「Okay」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Afterwards, I'll have you memorize an incantation」(Meryl)

「Incantation?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Yes, it's an incantation for the magic that confirms the tea's temperature. I'll need you to check the tea's temperature when we finish preparing it」(Meryl)
「So a magic like that exists huh」(Kousuke/Yui)

This particular magic could be used to adjust the bath's temperature too apparently She taught him the incantation for the magic and asked him to attempt it on the boiling teapot.

「What do you see?」(Meryl)

「There's a lot of orange spheres rising out of the water's surface」(Kousuke/Yui)

「It seems you were successful」(Meryl)

Meryl casts the same magic while explaining the details.

The color of the spheres are a rough representation of the water's temperature. There are ten colors that represent the water's condition from cold to boiling. White being the coldest and wine-red being the boiling point. To precisely interpret the temperature, the size of the spheres is also taken into account. At this point, the sphere Kousuke is staring at is the largest and there are three smaller ones.

The largest orange sphere before him is approximately 68℃.

As a forethought, this magic was designed with water temperature in mind so using it to check magma and fire's temperature won't work. To check those a different magic was required.

「The water isn't ready for brewing yet. Let's wait a bit for now」(Meryl)

The water was ready in about two minutes and Meryl retrieves the teapot.

She briskly prepared enough tea for one person.

「This tea is ready to be served. Have a taste and memorize it」(Meryl)

Kousuke received the teacup and took a sip.

「Delicious」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Thank you. Now it's your turn to prepare one. Did you memorize the procedure?」(Meryl)「Yes」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke began to reheat the teapot and did everything as per Meryl's

instruction.

「It's ready」(Kouske/Yui)

「Let's taste it then」(Meryl)

The two split the tea for tasting.

「It tastes a little different」(Kouske/Yui)

「It seems so. Don't feel down though, I'm impressed you made it this well on your first try. With a little adjustment the taste will be fit for Ojousama」(Meryl)

In two more attempts the tea was made perfectly. Only task left is to produce this in a large quantity.

「Let's end the training here. It would be rude to keep Ojousama waiting any longer.

It was worth teaching you this, but it seems I lost track of time because of that」(Meryl)

Meryl quickly prepared the tea and presented a tray with the tea and some snacks to Kousuke.

The snacks were prepared for Gretzel a little while ago.

「Please bring these to Ojousama as well」(Meryl)

「I understand」(Kousuke/Yui)

Seeing that Kousuke was careful with the tea, Meryl escorted him out and prepared her own set of tea before heading to the break room that Gretzel and Serena were in.

「I've prepared some tea for you」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Thank you. Kousuke, would you like some as well? I have an extra cup」(Horun)

「I already had some when I was practicing so I'll pass. Oh, would it be alright if I have some of the snacks instead?」(Kousuke/Yui)「No need to be so reserved」(Horun)

Kousuke grabbed a small muff and plopped it into his mouth.

「Is this muffin made with your taste in mind?」(Kouske/Yui)

「Perhaps. At least I can't say it tastes bad」(Horun)**【TL: I can hear Gretzel crying Horun】**

「Do the chefs all know every single one of your family member's preferences? If so, that's quite the feat」(Kousuke/Yui)「That's true, I struggle just trying to make something for myself」(Horun)

「I'm in the same boat too」(Kousuke/Yui)

The two once again began to chat.

He began from where he left off about the rescuing the orphans and the Violent Barb incident but was interrupted by Horun's worried inquiry. Kousuke said indifferently that he didn't even receive a single scratch, to which Horun could only smile helplessly at.

His first day working at the mansion ended with the two chatting. Tomorrow he will assist her in medicine making, or so it was planned. She also wanted to teach him some medical science tomorrow as well.

「Alright, I need to head back now, see you tomorrow!」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Yes, tomorrow then」(Horun)

He left her room and headed to the first floor.

Noticing his descent, Gretzel and the other two approached him.

「Thank you for today's work Yui」(Serena)

「Yes, thank you for today as well. But it seemed today's workload was on the lighter side right?」(Kousuke/Yui)「Ohh, well said. Seems like you'll be fine from now on」(Serena)

Serena hearing Kousuke's reliable words clasped his shoulder.

「Yui, tomorrow we'll show you how to make the beds and prepare other teas」(Meryl)

「I understand」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Seeing how well you were working today and showing that you're a fast learner you'll have no problems tomorrow」(Meryl)「I'll do my best to meet your expectations」(Kousuke/Yui)

「I'll bring this child to the front gate then」(Gretzel)

Saying his good nights to Serena and Meryl, Kousuke left the mansion with Gretzel.

「Starting tomorrow you will be able to enter and leave this place on your own.

Please come to Horun's mansion around the same time as this morning」(Gretzel)

「I understand」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Alright, please work hard tomorrow as well」(Gretzel)

「I will」(Kousuke/Yui)

When they reached the front gate there was a different guard. Saying farewell, Kousuke left for the inn.

He had dinner with Alice and discussed with her about the day. He retired to his room soon after.

The next day and the day after no problems arose as he was able to finish his tasks one after another. He even became acquaintances with other servants.

By the tenth day he was capable enough to handle all the tasks in Horun's mansion. This allowed Meryl and Serena who had to assist the main building from time to time to not worry.

One day, on his way back after returning Horun's lunch tray someone called out to him. Turning around, he saw someone that was likely a noble guest of the house.

「Is there anything I can help you with?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Are you one the maids here as well?」(Noble)

「Yes」(Kousuke/Yui)

「I've been staying here for the past four days but I haven't seen you before」(Noble)

The nobleman quickly glanced towards Kousuke's body as he questioned him.
【TL: IT'S A TRAP!】

「I'm a personal attendant for Horun ojousama so I'm rarely at the main building. It's not unlikely that there are people who haven't seen me before」(Kousuke/Yui)「I see, so that's the case」(Noble)

「Would that be all sir?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「No, may I take a bit of your time right now?」(Noble)

「Only for a brief moment. I still have some work left to take care of」(Kousuke/Yui)

Hearing Kousuke's response the nobleman's eye gleamed slightly with lust. Kousuke didn't notice the change in the nobleman's eye.

「It won't take long. Come with me then」(Noble)

Curious about what he wanted Kousuke followed the nobleman.

Avoiding crowded areas, the nobleman headed towards the rear of a hidden building. Having a bad premonition, Kousuke questioned him since the only two things he can think of happening here were both terrible.

「Excuse me, could you tell me where we are heading? I really need to get back to work」(Kousuke/Yui)

The nobleman ignored her and continued onward.

Reaching the secluded spot the nobleman embraced Kousuke.**【TL: Well, the thing one of the readers didn't want to see is happening 】**

「WHA—!?」(Kouske/Yui)

「You came this far already so I'm sure you know exactly what is going to happen right?」(Noble)

Kousuke saw the face with a disgusting smile coming closer to his face.

His prediction was spot on, but he never expected it would actually occur. Panic and discomfort invaded his mind.

Being a man himself this was something he did not want to EVER happen to him.

His other prediction was that his disguise was unveiled.

「Hehehe, I like innocent ones like you. It's making me want you more. I'll discuss with Rafael later to buy you off him. Don't worry, I'll make sure you get paid more than here. If you want to take the "night-shift" I don't mind making you my concubine as well」(Noble) 「Let go… Let me go! Please!」(Kousuke/Yui)

Dropping all ideas of acting, Kousuke could only struggle while panicking.

He knows he's much stronger than the nobleman and could throw him aside if he wanted to, but…

The moment the man tried to forcibly kiss Kousuke, someone from above dropped down.

「Stop right there!」(???)

The man who appeared from above was wearing an elegant outfit as well, like a noble. He had a pleasant, flowery scent around him.

While trying to figure out who this man was, Kousuke was pulled by the man and placed behind him.

「Inhuman scoundrel that prey on innocent women! I, Vants the Third, shall use mine dark powers to punish thou! Prepare thyself!」(Vants III)

To the sudden appearance of Vants the other nobleman was stunned in shock.

Vants felt that his appearance and introduction was well done and continued to grimace towards the other nobleman. 『Everyone who see I's valiant appearance should be in awe!』Thought Vants.

But.. to Kousuke who heard the "mine dark powers" phrase could only recall his previous "sickness" he had a few years ago and was left speechless.

「Scoundrel! Is thou a coward? COME FORWARD!」(Vants III)

「…. Who the hell are you?」(Noble)

「I announced already, did I not?」(Vants III)

「Not asking about your name. I'm asking why did you interrupt my fun!」(Noble)

「The Justice within I is shouting to destroy evil like thyself」(Vants III)

He proudly proclaimed why pounding his chest.

「That's.. not exactly what I asked for either. Whatever, I sort of got it so change the topic.

Could you point some things out for me instead? What part of me is evil? That girl wasn't disliking it you know?」(Noble)**【TL: No.. he really.. really.. REALLY disliked it】**

「Such lies! Her cries of refusal, is that not proof enough!」(Vants III)

「She's just acting. If she really didn't want it why did she come all the way here?」(Noble)「…… Is that the truth?」(Vants III)

Thinking a little, Vants then turned his head towards Kousuke.

Kousuke vigorously rejected by shaking his head quickly.

「It seems thou was wrong」(Vants)

「I think you just dampened the mood with the interruption though」(Noble)

「No, I truly did not enjoy this. Furthermore, I never suspected that you were viewing me with that in mind in the first place」(Kousuke/Yui)「It sounds like you appraise yourself lowly there. You may not be dazzling like some of the noblewomen, but the appearance you have is like the wondrous flower in the wide, open field, full of inner beauty and vitality that draws the eyes of many. I'm

quite certain no one would disagree with my opinion here」(Noble)「I dislike agreeing with thou, but alas, I cannot deny this either. For this same reason I came here」(Vants III)「I see….」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke responded half-heartedly. They do not realize Kousuke's disguised with magic and is actually a man. Despite being complimented he did not feel too happy.

Moreover, their compliments toward his "inner beauty and vitality" was probably not just due to his outer appearance, but these two have only known Kousuke for about thirty minutes. He couldn't help but tilt his head in confusion at this.

Kousuke kept silent though, he didn't want to make this situation any more complicated.

「I've lost interest. I'm leaving」(Noble)

The nobleman glanced at "Yui" and confirmed that she indeed did not have any interest and left.

「Hmm. Understanding begins with conversation!」(Vants III)

Kousuke was troubled if he should just leave or give his thanks to Vants. Considering that Vants did act to save him Kousuke approached Vants who was nodding to himself in self-appreciation.

「For saving me, you have my gratitude」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Nay! No need to mention. I love order and justice, mine actions are expected」(Vants III)「That's quite.. Amazing」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke flattered him in “astonishment”.

「Anyone can do this! Listen to thy soul’s whispers, brave forward a step and all can be called “A Hero”!」(Vants III)『Does he mean to just rely on instinct? I think his version of a hero is a bit off』Kousuke thought.

Kousuke digested what Vants just proclaimed in his own way. Of course, he kept this to himself.

「Nevertheless, to jump down from above.. You gave me quite the scare」(Kousuke/Yui)

「For mine grand entrance, if it is not flashy it has no meaning. Mine stealthy tracking and timely appearance! Was it not worthwhile?」(Vants III)【**TL: >_>**】

「…. You were following us?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Indeed. The plan was to relax in the courtyard but mine eyes caught the appearance of thou and that vile man. Mine senses tingled, a premonition, so to speak」(Vants III)

Vants could have appeared earlier, but felt that it was too plain to appear normally. He quickly climbed onto the roof of the building and waited for the perfect timing for his “entrance”.

Seeing how much effort he put into looking good, Kousuke could only feel some twisted awe towards him.

「Any… Anyways, I thank you again. I still have some work left to do so I shall take my leave here」(Kousuke/Yui)「Mhmm. Guard thyself well. Find I if thou experiences such thing again!」(Vants III)

Returning to Horun’s mansion, Gretzel and the rest questioned Kousuke why he was late. He responded honestly.

They cautioned him to not take provocative actions henceforth.

The mansion has a few maids who's responsible for "Warming the beds" and told Kousuke he was probably mistaken as one. "Reject such invitation at all costs" he was heavily instructed.

Gretzel on the side was giving Kousuke an apologetic look for this situation. This was brought about by her for not teaching Kousuke thoroughly enough.

「The person who mistook you as a mistress, what was he like?」(Serena)

He disclosed to Serena about the man's appearance and clothing.

「Ah, that person. He tried to put his hands on me too. In fact, he called out to most of the female servants before」(Meryl)

Meryl nodded as she explained this. Most of the servants called out by that nobleman were already informed about this and were able to avoid this.

The nobleman's name is Sedovit. He was dragged along by his friend who's one of the marriage candidates.

Sedovit was already engaged so he will not be participating as a candidate for Horun's hand. He was planning to run a bit wild with other women since after he is officially married he will have to behave. He loves women and is aggressive, but he's never forced anyone unwilling before. He has quite the good impression with the other maids since he treats them well. Meryl wasn't against allowing "Yui" to have a light relationship with him.

Despite being told these things Kousuke had no response. Meryl and Serena, seeing that Kousuke wasn't reacting, decided to not stick their nose into this anymore and gave a comforting smile.

「The one that saved you was called Vants correct?」(Meryl)

Kousuke nods to Meryl's question.

「It seems it wasn't just a typical oddball then」(Meryl)

Meryl's countenance became serious. Calling a guest an oddball may be rude but his eccentricity is an issue to this household.

His home country is far away and he is of a different family. To top it off his speech and conducts are exaggerated. Everyone there felt that a ridiculous person has arrived.

Rafael's impression of Vants is poor due to this and had constantly delayed Vants's marriage interview.

Rafael's connections has not extended to the ancient clans and used this marriage interview as an opportunity to make some. But… the prospects that have arrived were not to his liking so far.

If Vants was a bit more proper than the marriage interview would have been conducted without a hitch.

「Vants-san is someone from one of the ancient clans?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Yes, you didn't notice from his appearance and perfumes?」(Meryl)

「I've never met anyone from an ancient clan before」(Kousuke/Yui)

His impression of ancient clans solidified from hearing this.

The only problem here was that Vants was an exception among the ancient clans, but since he kept this to himself no one could correct Kousuke's assumption.

「Let's end the chatter here, we still have work to do」(Gretzel)

Gretzel clapped loudly and hurried the three to work.

Kousuke finished the rest of his tasks off without any incident. Sewing, baking, the amount of responsibilities he had grew day by day and he slowly became a full-fledged maid.

Kousuke, using the previous incident as a trigger, began speaking with Sedovit and Vants. As they spoke more together he came to realize they're not bad people.

Sedovit would gift him various perfumes and cosmetics saying "Hiding your beauty is a waste" and Vants would consult with Kousuke about his younger sister. The three's relationship became better over time thanks to this.

At the same time Alice is proceeding with the negotiations. Due to Rafael's stubbornness she decided to stop being nice and plans to add in some threats next time around.

Twenty days since Kousuke began working passed. Sedovit left the mansion since his friend finished with the marriage interview. On the other hand, Vants is still around.

As per usual, Vants was once again speaking with Kousuke.

「Today, I request your hand in assistance」(Vants III)

「Assistance with?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「I heard that Lady Yui is always by Lady Horun's side. This letter, will you present it to her ladyship?」(Vants III) 「Is this a love letter?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Of course it is nothing of that sort. Mine purpose here was never to marry. Lady Horun's medical skills, her skill as a doctor is what I seek」(Vants III) 「Wouldn't setting up an appointment be easier instead of this roundabout way?」(Kousuke/Yui) 「It is as thou speaks, but all inquiries besides the marriage interview are rejected at the moment. These marriage interviews, obviously will not end soon correct? My time is limited, staying here for a prolonged time was not originally planned. I took a seat so that I may convey mine requests. Mine

turn.. Alas.. Has not come around yet」(Vants III)

Kousuke was speechless seeing the oblivious Vants. He could only dryly smile towards this pitiful man.

「This is mine predicament, can thou comply?」(Vants III)

Vants, for some time, has been contemplating on giving “Yui” the letter to pass over to Horun and decided to go for it today.

「I will if what you wish for me to take will not bring any harm to Ojousama」(Kousuke/Yui)「I swear on mine life and to the god. We only seek Lady Horun’s assistance, nothing else. In no way shall we bring harm to her, our pride disallows it」(Vants III)

Kousuke stared into Vants’s eyes to confirm his honesty. Vants stared back without turning away.

Seeing no any hesitation in his eyes, Kousuke nodded in acknowledgment and took the letter.

「Truly I am indebted. I wish to hear her response tomorrow evening here. Regardless if she rejects or accepts」(Vants III)「I understand. Tomorrow evening here correct? Just in case, there’s a possibility others will demand to know the contents of this letter. Are you fine even if that happens?」(Kousuke/Yui)「I do not mind. As long as it arrives in Lady Horun’s hands somehow」(Vants III)

「I shall take my leave then」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke bowed towards Vants and heads back to Horun’s mansion.

He did not go to Horun directly but to Gretzel instead. He explained the situation to her and passed the letter over.

Gretzel scanned the letter with magic to make sure it’s safe. This was just a

precaution since nobles sending letters rigged with a trap or two to others was not uncommon.

「It's safe, nothing dangerous is attached」(Gretzel)

The letter was returned to Kousuke.

「Is it fine to not read the letter?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Vants-sama may be a bit eccentric, but he's not the type to threaten others. I'm quite certain the contents of the letter is medically related. There's no need to read it」(Gretzel)「Then, shall I bring this to Ojousama?」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Yes, please」(Gretzel)

He went upstairs with the letter and knocked on Horun's room before entering. He presented Horun the letter.

「This letter, it's from a noble called Vants. He is requesting your assistance as a doctor on a particular matter」(Kousuke/Yui)「I see, as a doctor」(Horun)

Horun opened the letter and began reading.

Some time passed in silence. When Horun lifted her head, Kousuke spoke.

「He requested to hear your response by tomorrow evening」(Kousuke/Yui)

「I see… Please give the letter to Alice and ask if she can assist as well. If she accepts then I'm willing to accept as well」(Horun)「Got it, I'll bring it over to her later tonight」(Kousuke/Yui)

Kousuke took the letter back and pocketed it.

The two passed the time with idle chat and snack making until Kousuke's shift ended.

He left the mansion and returned to the inn. He gave Alice the letter and Horun's message. Alice thought about it for a moment and spoke.

「Tell her I'll help out」(Alice)

「Got it」(Kousuke/Yui)

It was decided that it's best to let Horun keep the letter next time he returned.

The two ate dinner then headed to bed without incident.

Unlike the peaceful setting Kousuke was in, a disturbance occurred at the mansion.

It was something that escaped Horun's detection so she did not trigger the alarm magic. Even Alice's magic that was observing Horun's condition could not detect it.

By the next morning the disturbance was over.

The event that occurred the night before was an attempted murder on a noble. The culprit was a servant that's been working there for over ten years.

The culprit's animosity wasn't towards the noble, but towards Rafael. He was a survivor from a former noble's household that lost to Rafael during a political strife. He disguised himself and changed his identity to sneak into this mansion. His background check passed due to the assumption that the former noble's household was completely eradicated.

Kousuke heard all of this through the various gossips among the staff. Losing his family and land, rather than trying to start over he vowed to take revenge on Rafael instead.

Ten years ended up passing since Rafael always had bodyguards with him.

Understand that killing Rafael directly was impossible he changed his target to a noble that supports Rafael instead.【**TL: I would have realized this after like.. 1 year at most..**】

If a noble guest was killed or even hurt and Rafael could not find the culprit then the criticism and censures he would receive from the other nobles would have been great.

Despite being caught, since the culprit was a servant that has been overlooked for many years, the culprit's goal of ruining Rafael's reputation was still very likely.

To prevent this from leaking out Rafael launched the news that an outsider attacked the noble instead.

Vants was the one that settled the incident with the help of a maid from the main building. Vants, with his strong sense of justice and sharp deductions, cornered the culprit into confessing. The case was wrapped up by dawn.

After the culprit was interrogated he was immediately executed, thus putting a lid on this incident.

「So something like that happened I see」(Kousuke/Yui)

Curious about the details of the case, Kousuke inquired about it to Gretzel, Serena and Meryl and was told about last night's incident.

「To think that Osvaldo-san wanted to take revenge on Rafael-sama」(Meryl)

「I heard he was a dedicated worker too」(Serena)

Surprised by this event Meryl and Serena commented as such.

「The marriage interview is currently suspended I hear. The remaining guests are planning to leave by the end of today. The marriage interview resumption has not been decided yet either」(Gretzel)「As one would expect, who can continue a marriage interview after that?」(Kousuke/Yui)

The suspension was because Rafael had to go around to clean up the mess.

His attempt to “damage control” the situation is not going well it seemed. The victim in the incident was a foreign noble and his status made it difficult to fix things in secret. If the noble was someone close to Rafael then this would have finished faster. He is forced to thoroughly clean this up and it will most likely take over a year.

As a result, Rafael was able to maintain his reputation as a noble since he prevented the incident from getting any larger. Unfortunately, he was forced to use up much of his accumulated favors from other nobles and is currently unable to swing around his authority like he used to. His chances of gaining more power became much harder as well.

Rafael, after this incident, wanted to resume the marriage interviews as soon as possible, but Horun’s refusal to cooperate with the cleanup completely stopped him.

Thanks to this incident, Alice and Gretzel no longer had to move and were soon able to accomplish their goal. For poor Kousuke’s case, it seemed he’ll just be working here as a maid for the entire mission.

「There’s no change in your tasks for today. Please continue to work as you normally would」(Gretzel)

At Gretzel’s word the three nodded and began cleaning.

Kousuke, before he began to clean, received Gretzel’s permission to convey Alice’s message to Horun. After passing the message he began to clean.

Kousuke was able to meet Vants before nightfall while bringing Horun’s lunch from the main building. Kousuke conveyed that Horun will accept the request to Vants. He also took this opportunity to ask where he can find Vants in the future since he will not be leaving Horun’s mansion later that evening.

「She will assist us?! Oh how wondrous! Lady Yui, thou is the brightest star in mine eyes! Like an envoy of a goddess herself!」(Vants !!!)

Hearing “Yui”s response, Vants with a face full of smile tried to hug “her” but was smoothly dodged.

「That’s sexual harassment you know」(Kousuke/Yui)

「Sexual harassment?」(Vants III)

「It means to touch a women inappropriately without permission, in other words to act unlike a gentleman」(Kousuke/Yui) 「It is exactly that. I apologize, I lost control there. Please give this letter to Lady Horun. It’s required to enter our country」(Vants III) 「I shall receive it then」(Kousuke/Yui)

Unlike yesterday’s letter this one was larger and thicker.

「With this I bid thou farewell. I look forward to our future meeting」(Vants III)

Vants gave a big smile before leaving in good humor.

Like yesterday, Kousuke gave Gretzel the letter to confirm its safety before bringing it over to Horun.

For the next five days Kousuke was worked to the bones by Meryl and Serena before he left the mansion with Gretzel.

The next day, Horun left the mansion to prepare for the journey, telling her family and maids she’s going to visit Alice’s place.

The latter assumed it would be a short term visit, but Horun’s destination was the Hunsing continent so there was no possible way it would be short term. Alice and Vants arranged for someone to provide some teleportation service for them,

but even with this it would take around one month.

Of course, they have no plans to return to Ricardo immediately. They wanted to tour around and have some fun so it was unknown how long it would be until they return.

ToC

12

Hi everyone!

So this was a very wordy chapter.. I did my best though ;-; Don't get mad at me okay~?

Monk

Chapter 12: Good things come around, Cause of the Strife

Kousuke was currently alone heading towards St. Beria.

It's already been four days since the three of them left Ricardo and arrived at Alice's home.

The three of them were together until yesterday but currently Horun and Alice were headed towards the western harbors of Sebushik continent to find a ship scheduled to head to Karuhode continent.

Vants's request required them to travel from the continents Sebushik to Karuhode to Hunsing. There were ships in the northern harbors of Sebushik that can directly travel to Hunsing, but the northern counties are currently at war with each other so Alice suggested a detour to which Horun agreed.

Kousuke wasn't travelling with Alice and Horun for the following reasons.

The client from this ancient clan was extremely strict with societal protocol. If one's position is low then informality is acceptable, but as the position gets higher the importance of formality will increase. And the client this time around was among the highest positions.

Apparently, Vants is also someone of power, but when he was speaking with "Yui" he ignored the status difference since he was in a different country. Vants was dispatched because of his lenient personality.

"When in Rome, do as Romans do" he adopted this motto to use for his own country and for other countries. It was unclear whether or not they'll allow any

form of informalities in Hunsing.

So Alice gave Kousuke a suggestion. Follow them or wait for them to pick him up. If he followed them he would be stationed alone for some time in a nearby country besides the ancient clan's country. If he wanted to be picked up, Alice will find him in Ricardo or St. Beria later.

Hearing this Kousuke chose the latter. He didn't want to be alone in an unknown country so he chose to stay near people he knew.

Staying at Alice's place was out of the question since she had dangerous objects in the house that she didn't want Kousuke to touch.

So due to his choice he was heading to St. Beria alone.

Taking three days to prepare for this journey was considered too much by most people. Unlike Earth, there was no need to prepare anything specific to board a ship since as long as their luggage is ready, they're set. They would need to explain their reason for travelling, but Horun and Alice weren't worried about that and within a day they finished packing. The last thing they did before leaving was erect the barrier around Alice's home. Even that required very little time.

The reason why it took them three days to prepare was because they were giving Kousuke various information and techniques. A reward for working as a maid for a month. They were originally going to pay him for his work, but since Kousuke "infiltrated" of his own volition, they substituted the reward with various information that they believed would be useful for him.

Alice taught him three magic incantations. The first was a small barrier he can create on or near himself, the second one was a short distance teleportation and the third was a penetrating light beam. Horun taught him medical treatment techniques that involved some use of magic.【**TL: So "Guard" "Blink" and "Beam" -> I'll use these names in the future**】

Due to the small size of《Guard》it could only protect one person at a time and its strength can easily prevent a Lutz Monkey's attack.

《Blink》can be used to travel over a decent distance instantly, roughly a three days walk worth of distance. Kousuke actually used《Blink》to travel to a spot about an hour away from St. Beria.《Blink》has three more ranks above with the highest rank allowing the caster to teleport to any point on the world. Unfortunately, no human being can cast it as they lack the required amount of mana. Even《Blink》required a magical aptitude of D+ to cast, most people can only dream of being able to cast it.【**TL: From earlier chapters, having an aptitude over D in any category is considered great**】

《Beam》is well.. Just a light beam. A light beam with a thickness of a finger shot forward about fifty meters. It pierced through a boulder, it seemed to be useful. It's nice to learn, but Kousuke preferred to avoid violence so he wondered if he will ever find a use for it in the future.

The walls surrounding St. Beria slowly came into his view.

He was happy to see how much his travel time shortened compared to walking.

「A place I've seen before huh. It's a useful magic but unless I've been there before I can't use it so it can be considered a somewhat limited magic」(Kousuke)

Feeling his confidence rising too much he placated it while continuing forward.

When he reached the gates and the scene confused him.『Is it a shift change?』Thought Kousuke as he saw no guards near the gate.

He decided to wait a bit, but he started to feel uneasy after looking into the town.

Compared to a month ago he saw a lot more people moving around. He wasn't told about any big events so why?

The unusualness of the situation didn't end there. When he observed a bit more carefully there was an big peculiarity before him.

The clothing the townspeople were wearing had no sense of unity. It wasn't

aesthetically displeasing or anything, but it was obviously off season. No sleeves, short sleeves, long sleeves. There were even some that were completely topless and some that were bundled up with thick coats. Even weirder, some wore their clothes backward or had mismatched buttons.

The animals were exhibiting unusual behaviors as well. The dogs were trembling, the cats were gathered and singing in the middle of the street and the birds were lined up neatly along the entire wall while chirping loudly.

「That carpenter is making some weird things now and the food stalls are giving out burnt food… Just what in the world is going on here! And how come no one is noticing all of this!」(Kousuke)

The number one weirdest thing was definitely that no one in the town noticed any of this!

The coat wearing man complained that it's hot while the topless man agreed with him. No one is complaining about the burnt food from the stalls either.

Everything seemed calm as if this was completely normal!

Kousuke was speechless for a moment there thinking he's the only crazy one.

「… I should check out the inn」(Kousuke)

He entered the town in order to find someone normal among this insanity. Unfortunately, everyone was not normal.

「He.. Hello」(Kousuke)

Reaching the inn, Kousuke prayed for this place to be normal.

But he ended up falling on the ground after seeing a man hysterically laughing

on the floor and a woman trying to stand a couch up.

「This place too huh…」(Kousuke)

Noticing that someone entered the inn, Shidi came out to see a perplexed Kousuke on the floor.

「Welco— It's Kousuke-san! You came back a lot earlier than I expected」(Shidi)

「Long time, no see.. Sort of. It's only been a month so… Well, I came back due to a few reasons」(Kousuke)

「I see. Are you planning on staying here again?」(Shidi)

「I would like to, do you have a spare room?」(Kousuke)

「None are open at all! It's okay though, you can just sleep in the halls like the other guests!」(Shidi)【**TL: What….**】

「No no no! That's not good at all! As a business how could you make your guests sleep in the halls!?」(Kousuke)

He rebuked Shidi and felt his wit's falling apart when he thought that she was also crazed too.

「The guests seem to be enjoying themselves though」(Shidi)

「I see, none are dissatisfied huh」(Kousuke)

「Dissatisfaction? None at all! It's our inn's motto to do our best to accommodate! There's no way anyone would be discontent!」(Shidi)

「The fact that they're not is weird you know」(Kousuke)

Still doubtful about the customers' satisfaction, Kousuke glanced at the

various customers sleeping on the floor. Every single one of them had a happy expression plastered on their face.

Trying to figure out what's going on Kousuke questioned Shidi.

「Have there been any strange occurrences recently?」(Kousuke)

「Strange occurrences? The increase in customers maybe? This time of the year there aren't any festivities planned so the amount of customers we have right now is very large」(Shidi)

「I already figured that out. There were a lot of people walking around in the streets. I figured there wasn't an event happening.. so why?」(Kousuke)

「I wondered why there are so many people around too. I'm happy that there are more customers coming to our inn though. I have to work harder! I was thinking of decorating the place with more flowers to improve its atmosphere! That way the customers' mood would be better!」(Shidi)

「You should probably hold off on that thought until you get a bed for every customer first」(Kousuke)

Shidi ignored Kousuke and headed out to get the flowers.

「She left without checking me in… Forget it, there's no vacancy here anyways. I wonder if the other inns have a room」(Kousuke)

He didn't have much expectation, but thought to at least try his luck.

It was fruitless though, the three nearby inns were also full.

There were some people who had tents set up around the inns and it implicitly showed that there were no inns with vacancies in St. Beria.

「Is my only choice to sleep in the halls back at Shidi's inn….」(Kousuke)

He truly wanted to sigh.

「Hmm, I wonder if the Adventurer's Guild allows us to stay? I should check it out」(Kousuke)

He changed his destination and headed towards the Adventurer's Guild.

Entering the guild he noticed that all the adventurers were gathered in one spot. The adventurers turned their heads around to see Kousuke. Within that crowd, Borudosu called out to Kousuke.

「You came back!」(Borudosu)

「Long time n— Wait are you normal Borudosu!?」(Kousuke)

「You make it sound like I'm normally a freak」(Borudosu)

「Sorry, didn't mean it that way. I'm just a bit confused since I came back to see that everything was a bit.. Off」(Kousuke)

「I know how you feel. I'm also confused by all of this」(Borudosu)

「Borudosu, do you have any clues why this is happening?」(Kousuke)

「Yes」(Borudosu)

Kousuke asked without any hope, but hearing that unexpected answer gave him a shock.

「WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!」(Kousuke)

「It's a distortion」(Borudosu)

Kousuke mind raced trying to understand and recalled something he was told

before.

「I heard it's something that comes about when someone uses magic」(Kousuke)

「That's right」(Borudosu)

「Distortions only appear when mana is rampant in the area right? Aren't distortions usually restrained with the proper channeling of mana?」(Kousuke)

「When anyone uses magic there's always a little mana that leaks out. This small leak creates a very tiny distortion. If the distortion accumulates enough it brings about terrible consequences. Just like right now. Still, this is a rare thing. This normally only happens once every hundred years. Nineteen years ago it happened here so we should have had at least seventy more years before it occurred again」(Borudosu)

「Is there any way to resolve this?」(Kousuke)

「There is. Distortions usually attach themselves to something. So the fastest way to resolve this is to find the object or living being it's attached to.. And destroy them. Unfortunately, it's not so simple this time around」(Borudosu)

『Not so simple? I guess he found out what it was attached to and tried to break it, but failed』Kousuke thought.

「Why can't we use that method?」(Kousuke)

「It's.. Attached to a human being. If it was someone evil I wouldn't have hesitated, but it's attached to an innocent person」(Borudosu)

The victim here didn't do anything wrong so there was no way he could kill that person.

There were some that wanted to kill the person to resolve this quickly, but it was instantly rejected.

For now, at least. The current state of the town isn't terrible yet, but if this isn't settled soon their conditions might worsen and cause the town to be flooded with numerous deaths.

「I've become unable to leave this town since ten days ago. We need to resolve this as soon as possible before it becomes worse. If nothing else can be done then we'll have to kill the person to end this」(Borudosu)

「I see, so you're currently looking for a different method to fix this.」(Kousuke)

Kousuke asked if Borudosu was close to a solution, clinging onto the idea of a peaceful resolution.

Borudosu's response shattered that.

「The distortion escaped. We're currently searching for it again」(Borudosu)

「Escaped?」(Kousuke)

「This is the first time we encountered a distortion you see and our carelessness caused it to notice us. We're at a loss now trying to find it, it's as if it became more cautious after our first encounter」(Borudosu)

「How did you find it the first time? Is there a specific way to track it?」(Kousuke)

「We had someone powerful assist us. Even with that help though we couldn't find the distortion today」(Borudosu)

「Today? It's not even past noon and you stopped the search already?」(Kousuke)

「That child doesn't have much stamina so we can't exactly drag out the search」(Borudosu)

「So that person.. is a child?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Borudosu said "Anoko" which implies a child, Kousuke is just confirming it**】

「Yes. I think you've met the child before as well. It's one of the child from the

orphanage」(Borudosu)

「The orphanage Viare's at?」(Kousuke)

「I figured you would know」(Borudosu)

Hearing it was a weak bodied child from an orphanage the only image that appeared in Kousuke's mind was the eye patched child from the second floor.

「I've met the child once before. But we've never spoke to each other. Never knew that child had such an ability」(Kousuke)

Kousuke nodded in admiration.

「The child has the "Demon Eye of Truth". The child can't control the "Demon Eye" and it's constantly being used. It's the cause of the weak body」(Borudosu)

「I see, gifts drains a person's stamina. Now I understand why that child's body is weak」(Kousuke)

「The child's resting in the back room. Viare is there as well. Ah, the distortion was originally attached to Viare by the way」(Borudosu)

「… Really?」(Kousuke)

Borudosu nodded.

「Is she hurt?! Is there anything wrong with her?!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke had connections with only a few people in this world and he became flustered hearing she was in danger.

「From what I observed there's nothing wrong with her. When the distortion was attached to her.. Her personality was.. amazing」(Borudosu)

Borudosu's face was distorted as he repeated how "amazing" it was.

「How was it amazing?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke gulped nervously, Borudosu expression became serious.

「She became.. A very competent worker!」(Borudosu)

「You call that amazing?! You scared me into thinking she went berserk or something!」(Kousuke)

「No no, it was definitely amazing.. And very weird. It was too big a of gap from the normal Viare. She was the only one in the guild that was able to work and she did every by herself you know! To the people who knew Viare, they can't help but feel awkward」(Borudosu)

「That's true, even I would doubt my eyes」(Kousuke)

Imagining the unbelievable, Kousuke couldn't help but to agree.

「The direction her personality changed could be considered a miracle instead of a disaster though. At least I thought that.」(Borudosu)

「She was that amazing I see」(Kousuke)

Kousuke laughed dryly.

Viare who was caring for the child came out of the back room. Seeing Kousuke, her body trembled. For a brief moment her eye showed signs of fear. But as she approached Kousuke the signs of fear faded and she showed a happy expression

instead.

「Kousuke-san! You came! Thank you so much!」(Viare)

「I'm not sure if can help much but I'll do my best. Anyways, it seems you were possessed by something unusual before right? You must have had a hard time」(Kousuke)

「Mm.. Even if I'm told that I don't remember what happened. I just remember doing things normally」(Viare)

Hearing her cheerful response, Kousuke knew that she didn't suffer.

「I see. I wonder if the other people are like that too」(Kousuke)

「Most likely」(Viare)

「The rest of us will become insane soon though」(Borudosu)

「Really?」(Kousuke)

「Besides you, Viare and the Tato with the "Demon Eye", the rest of us only have two or three days left. We figured this out from seeing the others' personality changing. It's a guarantee, no doubt about it. Since this is the case only you and Viare can solve this. Unless someone comes in from outside again. When I become a victim please take my journal, I wrote down various methods to fix this」(Borudosu)

「I want to solve this before that if possible. It's better to have more manpower for this. We can't take too long since I'll eventually fall victim too」(Kousuke)

「That's right. Let's get this wrapped up as soon as possible」(Borudosu)

Kousuke suddenly recalled why he came to the guild in the first place.

「Is there a room I can stay in here? Shidi's and the other inns were full」

(Kousuke)

「We just bundle up with blankets and sleep on the floor」(Borudosu)

「There's not much difference from sleeping in the halls huh. Is there a space I can sleep on?」(Kousuke)

Since it'll be the same anywhere he figured it would be best to just sleep among the sane.

「No problem」(Borudosu)

「You'll have to prepare your own meals but the other necessities we can provide you」(Viare)

「Then I'll be in your care」(Kousuke)

Kousuke bowed towards the two.

Securing a place to sleep, Kousuke unpacked his things and spoke with the other two about what happened so far.

The incident began five days after Kousuke left the town. The first to become affected were the children, the sick and the old.

The parents of the children affected just thought it was a new game they were playing. The caretakers of the elderly thought they were just going senile. The nurses and doctors thought that the patients were just becoming scared of their conditions.

The townspeople's life went on as usual, not realizing the odd behaviors were caused by the distortion. The situation exploded and leaving the town became impossible leading to where they are now.

Borudosu was not in St. Beria at first. He was dragged into this after returning from his request. Thanks to the limited time he was being influenced by the distortion he was able to keep his sanity until now.

Tato came to this guild to get help for the people in the orphanage despite having a weak body. Tato saw that everyone was acting weird while heading to the guild, especially Viare.

Tato's "Demon Eye" was able to see the progress of the distortion. The more erratic a person's behavior became the eye showed a deeper aura coming out of the person.

The people from the orphanage were affected by Viare's strong possession so Tato didn't realize just how bad their conditions were. Tato realized the severity of the situation while heading to the guild.

Normally a child like Tato would be ignored by the adventurers, but seeing the situation and Tato's "Demon Eye" they couldn't ignore the request.

Tato and the adventurers worked together and were able to corner the source of the distortion once. During this time, Borudosu and the rest did not know the cause of all of this was due to a distortion. The source of the distortion escaped because of their negligence.

Next day, Kousuke came along to assist in the search.

Tato was being carried by another adventurer to ease some burden. Even so, Tato's body could only hold out for about four hours.

The search for the source continued like this for a few days, but Borudosu and the rest fell into insanity. Kousuke, Viare and Tato were the only ones left to resolve the situation.

「This must be the journal」(Kousuke)

Kousuke grabbed the journal from Borudosu's pocket. Borudosu didn't even notice his pocket being rummaged through, instead he kept repeating meaningless movements.

「I wonder what's written in this」(Kousuke)

Kousuke sat down on a sofa and began reading. The journal had records of his income and plans scrawled all over it. He flipped past those pages to find the relevant ones.

「Found it」(Kousuke)

Kousuke began reading the relevant entries.

It detailed on what to do after finding a distortion.

It seemed there's one necessary thing to remove a distortion. That was the knife Borudosu has. That knife was enchanted with magic to seal the distortion. 『He must have enchanted it using the guild's resources』Kousuke thought.

The knife wasn't necessary if the distortion possessed an object though. The knife was only useful if the possessed target was a living creature.

Kousuke recalled that Borudosu told him killing the possessed person would fix this as well. With this knife you wouldn't have to kill anyone. Kousuke just needed to stab the distortion after drawing out of the person and speak a specific "keyword" to fully seal it.

There were also various ways to draw the source of the distortion out of the body. The best way, it seemed, was to scare it out of the body. Shaking or shocking the possessed target enough will expel the source.

Physical trauma will not work well though, it has to be a strong mental shock to draw it out. Giving the possessed victim a strong punch wouldn't do anything besides harm their body. The victim would have to be beaten to the last inch of their life to draw out the source this way.

The methods to draw out the source was very ambiguous at best. The fact that Borudosu and the adventurers drew it out before was probably their best chance to seal it.

Finished reading, Kousuke took Borudosu's knife from his pocket and headed to Viare and Tato.

「We're the only three left now」(Kousuke)

「We lost a lot of manpower with this… Do you think we'll be able to save everyone?」(Viare)

「We have to. If we don't this entire town will fall」(Kousuke)

Kousuke said in a depressed tone. He was suddenly bearing the fate of the entire town and it felt too heavy for him.

「We have to try harder then! You too Tato, let's do our best okay!」(Viare)

「Mhmm」(Tato)

「Anyways, let's patrol through the town like before. Can you help Tato get on my back?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke, with Viare's help, carried Tato onto his back.

The three headed out to search for the source.

Tato removed the eye patch and began observing the town. In Tato's eye, the dark aura caused by the distortion was thicker than before.

「You found it?」(Viare)

「No」(Tato)

To Viare's question Tato could only say no.

「Would it be okay to end today's search here?」(Viare)

Viare suggested seeing Tato's worsening condition. Kousuke saw that Tato's breath was uneven and considered heading back as well.

「Are you okay, should we head back?」(Kousuke)

「I can keep going for a little more」(Tato)

After searching for a little more the three headed back to the guild.

Kousuke left Tato's care to Viare and headed out once more. Even if the chances are slim he wanted to see if he can find something.

So far there's no danger despite the fruitless search for the source. The ruffians in this town were affected too and their personalities did a 180 turn. There was absolutely no crime being committed. This town became ridiculous, but he couldn't deny that it was peaceful.

Kousuke understood how a distortion was made, but he kept wondering what it really was. What's its goal? Its purpose?

In the past he was told "A distortion is just a distortion, nothing more, nothing less". The truth was, no one had a definite answer. Even the gods have no idea why these distortions exist so there's no possible way a human would know.

Suddenly, Kousuke heard someone singing out of tune. The singing could be heard from all around the town. It was disharmonious and out of tune but it was definitely a song.

「Is this a new song?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke stopped listening and headed towards the town's exit

He came to check if leaving became possible.

The scenery outside of town showed no signs of abnormality. He took a few steps forward to leave the town, but without realizing it he was walking back towards the town. He attempted this a few time with the same results, even flying didn't change anything.

He even used《Beam》but got no results. The beam would just bend downward as it approached the border and disappear into the ground.

It seemed people who were still sane could not leave, but those that fell victim could come and go as they pleased. The concern about the food supply running out disappeared when he noticed this.**【TL: Who's getting the food…】**

The people who leave seem to become normal again but since they can't remember that anything was wrong they simply return without bringing help.

「No changes again today」(Kousuke)

He didn't feel discouraged by the situation and continued to walk along the border.

When he was about to finish his investigation he suddenly felt something's gaze on him. While working as a maid he trained his perception to a higher level. He had plenty of opportunities to train since many men would stare at "Yui's" beautiful appearance constantly.

He continued to walk while confirming that the gaze was following him. Kousuke turned his head towards the direction of the gaze quickly.

It seemed like there was nothing there, but in Kousuke's eye he saw a slight disparity. A portion of the scene before him was warped. Noticing Kousuke's stare the source of the distortion escaped.

「Didn't Borudosu tell me that you can't see it?」(Kousuke)

『Wouldn't Borudosu and them be more experienced in sensing the source?』 Kousuke felt.

「How come I could sense it but they couldn't? I understand if it's just Borudosu alone but they were so many adventurers together so that seems unlikely…」(Kousuke)

He was convinced that they should have been able to sense it. 『That gaze, it was obviously not hiding its presence, it was like an amateur trying to peek』 Thought Kousuke. There was absolutely no way a professional like Borudosu would miss something like that.

「Is there a reason why it was monitoring me?」(Kousuke)

Unable to resolve this doubt, silence ensued.

Kousuke decided to be more vigilant next time around and headed back to the guild.

The next day and the day after, besides sensing the gaze from time to time there was no change in the situation. Kousuke was frustrated and weary from the lack of progress.

Unknown to Kousuke was that the source of the gaze was afraid of him.

「Welcome back, did you find anything today?」(Viare)

Viare greeted Kousuke as he returned to the guild.

「Same as usual. Is Tato alright being alone?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, Tato is currently asleep. I need to get some seasonings, do you want to

come with me?」(Viare)

「Sure」(Kousuke)

The two purchased the necessary things from the store and decided to take a light walk together.

Viare turned her head towards something and slowed her walk. Kousuke didn't worry too much thinking she was just staring at something.

When the two's position became farther apart Kousuke suddenly felt an immense pressure behind him.

「WHAT!?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke dodged Viare's suddenly lunging hand. Her hand was covered with a dark haze.

Viare once again thrusted her hand towards Kousuke, he dodged once more. He kept on dodging her relentless attacks.

The attacks were very simple so Kousuke was able to dodge with ease as he tried to figure out what's happening.

『There's not much point in trying to figure this out since I have no idea where to begin! I can only assume that Viare was possessed again, just like a criminal who returns to their scene to see the results. Still though, I have no idea what this distortion is trying to do to me. Why did it suddenly appear like this now? And that dark haze, what is that? Seriously, it's just a chain of unknowns! The only thing I can deduct from this is that its afraid of me』(Kousuke)

The moment Kousuke realized it was afraid of him, Viare's face was warped with fear.

The distortion, through Viare, displayed its deep fear of Kousuke. It was afraid

of Kousuke because… He's a DRAGONSLAYER.

Seeing such an overwhelming foe in front of it, its instinct told it that this human will be the cause of its death.

The sudden monitoring and this ambush, it lost control due to extreme fear. Before this it was able to control itself, but the rising fear inside wouldn't stop growing.

Wanting to suppress its fear it decided to slam the distortion directly into Kousuke.

It never occurred to Kousuke that the reason why it was afraid of him was because he's a dragonslayer.

This was something Viare would tell him later.

Kousuke stopped his deep thinking about things he has no idea about. No point over-thinking it so he planned on what to do now.

『I have to seal this distortion now. Should I confirm with Tato first if Viare is still possessed? So I should bring her to the guild――Oh crap!?』

Viare looked like she lost her temper and summoned numerous balls of the dark haze and threw them at him.

While dodging desperately he headed towards the guild. Those dark haze looked dangerous even if it just grazed him so it made him even more desperate.

With the guild entrance in sight, Kousuke increased his pace and dashed towards Tato's room.

Tato was shocked awake from the door slamming open.

「Sorry for waking you up! Viare seems to be possessed again! I need you to confirm!」(Kousuke)

Despite being in a state of shock, Tato managed to nod.

Kousuke carried Tato up and listened carefully for noises outside the room. Confirming there was no one outside they left the room.

They snuck around slowly and spotted Viare before she found them.

Viare was guarding the guild's front entrance. Around her were numerous dark haze balls, she most likely wanted to make sure that she wouldn't miss. Compared to before the balls were smaller, quantity over quality it seemed. Still though, there were over 300 of them.

Seeing the situation outside, the two whispered to each other.

「Is she possessed?」(Kousuke)

「I can't tell, those things around big sister Ui is making it hard to see」(Tato)

「I see……」(Kousuke)

Kousuke wanted to sigh hearing Tato's response.

He steeled his resolve knowing that there's only one thing left for him to do.

「Well then, I'll go get rid of some of those dark hazes ok? Once you can confirm if she's possessed or not just yell alright? I would feel better if you hid in the back room afterwards, but if you can't then stay still」(Kousuke)

Tato nodded. Seeing his nod Kousuke casted《Flight》on himself and flew out towards Viare at high speed.

He stopped on a spot mid-air that'll prevent Tato from being hit by a stray ball.

Viare raised her arm and pointed at Kousuke. At the same time some of the dark haze balls flew toward Kousuke.

Kousuke began dodging them in mid-air. The balls that smashed into the ground and buildings vanished but the ones that didn't hit anything returned to

Viare.

「It disappeared when it hit something! Then I'll use my sword!」(Kousuke)

He unsheathed his sword and swung at a nearby ball. With no resistance, the ball scattered and vanished.

He took up a "guts pose" since his plan worked.

「I can reduce them reliable now!」(Kousuke)

Most of the balls circled around Viare so he began to chop at outlying balls. The backlash from his sharp turns and dodges were painful but he didn't stop. If he stopped at all he would be instantly surrounded.

Clothes fluttering, soaring like the wind, Kousuke would dodge and weave but was never hit directly once.

Viare seemed to panic as she gathered the remaining 200 dark haze balls around her and launched them at Kousuke. As expected, she was able to control all of them accurately.

Kousuke could only dodge now seeing the overwhelming number of dark haze balls flying toward him. While dodging, Kousuke heard Tato yelling "Big sister Ui is possessed". The moment Viare launched the rest of the balls Tato was able to clearly see the distortion possessing her.

「Only thing left to do is to seal it. AH… Not good」(Kousuke)

Kousuke made a careless move… He was completely surrounded.

Viare made a gripping motion with her hand. The dark haze balls at the same time collapsed toward Kousuke.

Kousuke concentrated and stared at the incoming threats. He then dashed toward them.

If he stayed still he would have to face all of them at the same time. Seeing that it was impossible to win that way he chose to breakthrough them instead.

Flying and swinging his sword at an incredible speed, one dark haze ball after another disappeared. But there were too many and a few managed to smash into his body.

Luckily, the intensity of each dark haze ball was low so the ten or so that smashed into his body only made him feel slightly uncomfortable.

「I BROKE THROUGH!!!」(Kousuke)

Escaping the enclosure he flew down to the ground. Right before he landed he suddenly flew back up quickly. He groaned a bit at the backlash.

The dark haze balls that chased him were unable to follow his sudden change of direction and most of them crashed into the ground.

Losing confidence, Viare absorbed the rest of the dark haze balls and tried to escape.

「Trying to run?!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke cuts off Viare's escape path and landed in front of her.

「There's only the sealing left, there no way I'll let you escape!」(Kousuke)

He shouted as he pointed his sword at Viare.

He promptly took out the sealing dagger.

Kousuke's movement suddenly stopped after that. 『I have to shock the source

out.. How do I do that now?』Kousuke thought.

Feeling rushed to end this he shouted the first thing that came to his mind. Later, when he recalled this, he had no idea why he screamed that.

「I fell in love when I first saw you! Please marry me!」(Kousuke)【TL: O_O】

Kousuke's shout resounded throughout the town.

「……」(Viare)

Viare's movement suddenly stopped.

The two stared at each other for about a minute.

『Was that a miss?』Kousuke thought as he began to feel more and more embarrassed. He hurriedly tried to think of another method to cover up his embarrassment.

Another two minutes passed and Viare suddenly shouted.

「Umm.. Ahh.. REALLY?! I um.. umm I know we've taken care of each other a lot… bu.. bu.. but… it's too soon to get married, RIGHT!? So.. so.. um… is something in between.. a friend and a lo. lo.. lover o—o—o—kay instead!?」(Viare)

Her face was flushed red, Viare's body was releasing smoke as she flailed her arms around.

The smoke was gathering into one ball above her.

「Did I succeed??」(Kousuke)

Kousuke's stared at the smoke ball in the air with a shocked expression, not noticing that Viare was flailing about.

「Ah, I should seal this」(Kousuke)

He took out the knife once more and flew in front of the smoke ball.

He glanced at Viare, who was still saying something, to confirm that there was no more smoke coming out of her. He stabbed the smoke with the knife and spoke the "keyword".

Kousuke didn't understand what the "keyword" meant, most likely because he needed to study magic more.

Still though, the "keyword" worked and the smoke got sucked into the knife. The knife began to tremble once all of the smoke was absorbed. It looked like the distortion was struggling to get out. He suppressed the trembling knife and sheathed it. The scabbard had a similar sealing enchantment so with this the distortion would be double sealed. The knife quieted down after being sheathed.

「It's done, but I don't feel like anything changed at all」(Kousuke)

Nothing suddenly scattered out and the atmosphere didn't change. Even the dark haze balls inside him that's causing him to feel uncomfortable didn't disappear.

Thinking Viare might know something he landed near her.

Viare didn't notice Kousuke approaching her nor did she respond to his call.

He gave her head a light chop to get her attention.

「How much do you have in your savings!」(Viare)

「Savings? What are you talking about?」(Kousuke)

「We need to buy a place if we're to get married! I don't mind if it's a small place as long as it's not a shack!」(Viare)

「Ah… hmm. I apologize, I'm really sorry」(Kousuke)

After he apologized he explained to her why he suddenly proposed.

「….Eh? You needed to surprise the distortion out of me, is that right?」(Viare)

With the reason sinking into her mind, Viare recalled what she just said earlier and became bright red again in embarrassment.

She cupped her red face and crouched down.

Seeing Viare's reaction, Kousuke clapped his hands together and apologized once more.

「I'm terribly sorry for the misunderstanding! It was the only thing I could come up with to surprise the distortion out of you!」(Kousuke)

「N—no, I thought that the sudden proposal was weird too! I'm so embarrassed about how I was just now!」(Viare)

"Should we both work or should I be a housewife?" "How many children should we have?" These various thoughts were floating in her mind earlier.

Viare couldn't look at Kousuke without turning red for a while because of these thoughts.

「You don't have to move, but could you listen to what I have to say?」(Kousuke)

「Wah! Okay!」(Viare)

「I managed to seal the distortion, but the town didn't turn back to normal. I'm not certain if it's really resolved or not. Viare, do you know anything about this?」(Kousuke)

Viare took a deep breath to calm herself down and stood back up. She calmed down a bit, but her face was still bright red.

「There's some influence left. It'll probably be like this for another two days」(Viare)

「The sealing was a success though right?」(Kousuke)

「Yes. There's nothing to worry about. Most of the distortion was inside me before you drew it out and I can sense its presence in that knife」

「Its presence? You're able to sense it now? Is it because you were fully possessed by it?」(Kousuke)

「Probably. I'm sure in time I won't be able to sense it anymore. But I can apparently do this until that happens」(Viare)

Viare held out her hand and gathered the remnants of the distortion in the town onto her palm before she scattered them.

While the two were talking, Tato approached them seeing that it was safe.

The two took Tato back to the guild to rest. Once Viare and Tato settled down Kousuke headed out to patrol the town.

He observed the town from mid-air and proceeded towards the border to try to leave. The direction he was flying at changed a bit, but he successfully left the town.

Kousuke returned to the guild and spoke with Viare about what happened to her while she was possessed.

The first thing he asked her was about his initial doubt about the distortion's

existence. From what she explained it seemed that the distortion didn't have any real goals. The feelings the distortion gave Viare was to cause mass insanity in the town, after that it had no real plan. Not having a goal, distortions were just like natural disasters.

So why did this distortion appear though? It was because the seal on it broke. Even Viare didn't know the exact details of how that came about. The only thing she understood was that the seal broke two months ago and it was absorbing the small distortions caused by people using magic to regain its strength. Once it regained enough strength it possessed Viare and spread its influence to everyone.

Viare was just arbitrarily chosen it seemed. Yes.. A coincidence. Distortions cannot expand its influence on its own. It has to possess something first and through that object or creature's interaction with others it spreads. The reason why those influenced were just weird and ditzy was because Viare's a klutz and her personality was spread. Still, if someone that's cruel and brutal was possessed then this entire town would have been a bloodbath.

Originally, the source of the distortion buried itself deeply in Viare and waited patiently for her to spread it to everyone.

When she was possessed her mind was heavily influenced, but not fully controlled, by the distortion, now though she's completely back to normal.

There was only two times the distortion took full control of her body, when they it first met Kousuke and the fight earlier.

The distortion, through the possession, knew everything about Viare and what she knew. This was why it was afraid of Kousuke. Viare's prior knowledge of Kousuke being a dragonslayer planted the seed of fear in the distortion. If she didn't know about this then it would stayed quiet inside Viare for the entire time. Overwhelming power would not be enough to terrify it, but it thought that Kousuke knew its identity and ended up making a terrible mistake with a direct confrontation.

If another mistake had to be pointed out then it would be because the distortion possessed a living being. Distortions do not have a strong sense of ego, but by possessing Viare, her personality and ego were implanted into it. It

ended up possessing human emotions, fear being among them.

By the way, Kousuke is also at fault for the distortion resurrecting. The request to move the rocks on the lawn, that rock was the seal.

That rock was there before the town was built so the townspeople had no idea that the rock there was a seal. The client for that request too had no idea.

In the end though no one could really be blamed.

Two days later, just as Viare stated, the town was beginning to recover.

With the people recovering, those who were only visiting the town immediately left and the total population of the town gradually decreased.

The town was extremely lively as if no one left though. To make up for the lost time while they were all insane everyone was extremely busy.

The leaders of every adventurer party who assisted in resolving this distortion case were gathered and explained about everything that occurred. Each group was given a reward for their assistance by the town's nobles, though it was a bit small.

With this the cleanup for this incident was mostly done.

There was just one thing left so the Guild branch's head, Kousuke, Borudosu and Viare were currently in a meeting.

On the table, for the purpose of this meeting, the sealing knife was laid.

「So.. how should we deal with this」(Branch head)

The branch head was at a loss with what to do. Seeing him like that Viare was giving an apologetic look.

The issue lies with Viare, but she wasn't the cause of this problem either.

「I'll ask again, you don't sense it disappearing correct?」(Branch head)

「Yes」(Viare)

Viare nodded.

「Borudosu, do you know anything about this that could help?」(Branch head)

「No, I've never heard of this happening before. The distortions influence remaining.. This is the first time for me」(Borudosu)

The issue is the remaining distortion inside Viare.

Everyone in town returned to normal but the distortion in Viare hasn't disappeared yet.

The remnants of the distortion in town are all gone so she doesn't have the ability to manipulate them anymore. After some testing though Viare showed she could manipulate and use the distortion in the knife if she held it.

They thought of sending it to the capital or to Ricardo to strictly safeguard it so that Viare cannot use the distortion, but there was a possibility something terrible could happen if it was left alone.

「What's going to happen to me?」(Viare)

Viare asked as she trembled nervously.

「I would normally have to contact someone from the temple or the capital, but if I do that then you wouldn't have a pleasant life afterwards. I would prefer to not destroy the livelihood of one of my own. I feel this way and the others working here too. But, I can't just leave this as it is either」(Branch head)

One of the suggestion was to allow her to continue working while being monitored, but it was immediately rejected.

The guild is an important organization in this town and they would do everything to prevent another distortion outbreak.

「For the mean time you'll have to temporarily resign until the distortion in you is gone」(Branch head)

「I'm fired!?」(Viare)

Viare stood up and shouted as tears began to form under her eyes.

「Calm down. I said its temporary right? Once it's gone you can immediately start working again」(Branch head)

Saying that the distortion inside her is gone would just be her word, but everyone in the guild believed that she would never lie just to get her work back.

「If you've already planned that far ahead why are we holding this meeting?」(Kousuke)

「I need help in deciding who will monitor Viare during her retirement and to act as a buffer against another possible outbreak」(Branch head)

At Kousuke's comment the head revealed the main points of the meeting.

「Therefore I was hoping to one of you two would accept this request. I want one of you to stay with her and if anything occurs to solve it yourself or report it to a nearby guild branch. I understand that monitoring her isn't an ideal thing,

but leaving her alone and possibly allowing this to occur again is even more problematic」(Branch head)

「Then I will recommend Kousuke. Viare and I have a bad first impression of each other so I wouldn't be able to stand staying with her. On the other hand, Viare is close with Kousuke, to the point that he would accept her direct requests」(Borudosu)

「「What?」」(Kousuke + Viare)

Kousuke and Viare simultaneously raised their voice.

「I see, then let's go with that. He was the one that resolved this issue so if it were to occur again he should be able to easily fix it again from experience. Best regards and good luck, Watase-kun」(Branch head)

「Hey!? I can't do this suddenly!? It's not like I will be staying in this town for that long!」(Kousuke)

「Well, I'm not asking you to constantly monitor her. Just visit her frequently enough. If you're leaving the town we'll take over the monitoring for the time you're gone. If you plan on travelling together we'll pay for the expenses」(Branch head)

Kousuke was befuddled and before he could collect himself the head lowered his head and requested once more.

It was the first time someone more senior than him bowed to him. Rejecting at this point would make him feel like a villain so he nodded in agreement.

Even if Kousuke's aptitude is abnormally high, his personality was that of a normal boy his age. He was weak to being complimented by the head and Borudosu.

The head and Borudosu left the room with a cheerful expression since the case

was closed and Kousuke and Viare's situation was settled.

For Kousuke and Viare, they recalled the sudden proposal from before and only glanced at each other a bit before leaving.

They head to the orphanage together to explain everything to Wei.

While explaining everything to Wei he gave an incredible comment「Do you want to live together then?」and left the other two completely speechless.

While the two were dealing with this turmoil the rest of the town returned to its peaceful self.

ToC

13

Hey everyone!

This one’s a bit shorter, but enjoy!

Monk

Chapter 13: Dungeon Attack!

With the distortion incident sorted, Kousuke was continuously clearing the waves of requests coming into the guild. The restoration of the town required a lot of work and the townspeople were gathering manpower to assist them through numerous guild requests.

Therefore Kousuke was not the only one with his hands full, but every other adventurer as well. Of course, most of the work went to Kousuke. His name being famous was one of the reason, but the biggest reason was because most of the requests required an enormous amount of strength and stamina that no other people besides Kousuke had.

The town was extremely busy for about a week before it started to settle down. It would most likely take another two weeks to fully restore the town though.

Viare also tagged with Kousuke as he tackled each request. Her coming along was partly to monitor her, but it was also so she could maintain a stable income. Since her forced resignation, her income became zero. Kousuke, knowing her financial situation, took her along to help her.

Unfortunately, Viare, who was unused to doing labor work, ended up constantly making mistakes. It wouldn’t be a problem as long as the mistakes weren’t big. Why? Because she wasn’t being rewarded directly by the clients. Kousuke informed the clients ahead of time that there’s no need to prepare two people’s worth of the reward since she’s coming along as a volunteer worker. Because she was a volunteer worker the clients gave a blind eye to her small mistakes and the slower work pace.

Viare's income was based solely on Kousuke sharing half of his rewards to her.

Knowing that she was getting paid very well, Viare would support Kousuke with the miscellaneous tasks of finding and processing requests as well as budgeting his income and spending.

The amount of work Kousuke would do would provide her with an income equivalent to half a month's worth in a week. Due to the high work load, Viare couldn't keep up for the entire week and it ended with her just following Kousuke to the work sites. She knew she wouldn't be compensated for his work for those days if she just followed, but she came anyways.

Kousuke took a day off after working hard for a week. Feeling completely refreshed after his day off, he once again headed to the guild. The townspeople still needed a lot of help. Even if they had some leeway with their expenses they had no room to relax still. The guild too couldn't slack off due to the large amount of requests still coming in.

Viare needed another day off to regain her strength so Kousuke was alone today.

In the guild, as Kousuke approached the special odd-job request board, he was stopped by a voice.

「Ah, Diane-san. Good morning」(Kousuke)

「Yes, good morning to you too」(Diane)

It was the guild staff that assisted him during his quarrel with Regulus Parlor. She was also Viare's mentor and senior.

「That child is not with you today?」(Diane)

「She's still exhausted from the continuous work」(Kousuke)

「Ahh, that makes sense」(Diane)

She clapped lightly in acknowledgement.

「Did you stop me because you were worried about Viare?」(Kousuke)

「No, there's something I would like to ask you. Do you have any plans three days from now?」(Diane) 「Not really」(Kousuke)

Kousuke having any plans was rare so he was able to immediately reply.

「If that's the case then I was hoping if you could accept a joint request with Borudosu-san」(Diane) 「I don't mind as long as it's not too dangerous. What kind of request is it?」(Diane) 「An investigation of a ruin. It's a ruin called Zeldan, about three days away from here by foot. Have you heard about it?」(Diane) 「No」(Kousuke)

「I see. Well, let's just leave it as that then. This request isn't about researching the origins of that ruin anyway. Zeldan was originally thought to be completely explored, but recently a hidden passage was discovered. The request is to explore the discovered passage, map it out and indicate the location and types of traps you may find in there. How about it? Will you accept?」(Diane) 「I've never done a request like this before so I'm not qualified to accept it」(Kousuke) 「You'll be going with Borudosu who's experienced so it should be fine」(Diane)

『Then isn't it better if he just goes alone?』Thought Kousuke, but he gave it a second thought. 『Is it possible, he wants me to go there?』Kousuke guessed.

「…… Is there a very dangerous monster lurking in there?」(Kousuke)

He asked further, wondering if the reason for this was because he defeated a Violent Barb.

「From prior investigations nothing of that sort was found」(Diane)

「Then, is it possibly that the entrance caved in and you need me to dig it out?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Kou-chan.. You're thinking too much**】

He also asked since he always does manual labor requests.

「The entrance has already been cleared」(Diane)

Kousuke tilted his head in confusion.

「…… Then why do you need me to go?」(Kousuke)

「Borudosu-san wanted to take you along to give you some experience. To us in the guild, it would make us happy to see you become more proficient in many things」(Diane)

Kousuke felt that this was reasonable. Borudosu wanted Kousuke to accumulate some experience and broaden his horizon a bit.

It didn't seem like there was anything shady attached so Kousuke accepted.

「I understand. I'll accept the request. I just need to ask Borudosu for the details correct?」(Kousuke)「Yes, I heard you two were staying in the same inn so you could ask him for the details later tonight or tomorrow」(Diane)

The two's conversation ended and Kousuke headed back to the special odd-job notice board and grabbed a few more requests.

Later that evening after finishing his requests, Kousuke was heading towards the dining area in the inn. Today's dinner was lasagna with perfectly cooked cheese, consommé soup, and orange sorbet. A hard day's worth of work, an empty stomach and the amazing aroma, Kousuke was ready to devour his fill.

After finishing dinner and returning the tray, he stopped his feet as he was

nearing the dining area's exit.

「Borudosu!」(Kousuke)

「Hey Kousuke! You were getting dinner too?」(Borudosu)

「Yea. I just finished eating. I'll be heading to your room later. We need to talk about the joint request right?」(Kousuke)「Ahh, so you heard」(Borudosu)

「Are you staying in the same room as before?」(Kousuke)

「It's the same. I'll try to eat quickly then」(Borudosu)

「It's fine, just take your time」(Kousuke)

Kousuke went back to his room after his small chat with Borudosu.

He did some light studying and made preparations to enter the bath before heading to Borudosu's room.**【TL: Not bathing first? o.O】**

Kousuke knocked on Borudosu's door. He heard "Come in" and entered the room.

「Take a seat on the bed for now. We'll be doing a joint request but do you know what you'll be doing?」(Borudosu)「Explore and map the ruin, locate and mark traps and exterminate any monsters?」(Kousuke)「Mm, that's about it. This will be the first time you'll be taking a request like this right?」(Borudosu)「It's my first time so I'll probably be useless」(Kousuke)

「This is something I already accounted for, no need to worry. We need to prepare for the journey, can you make some free time tomorrow or the day after tomorrow?」(Borudosu)「I don't have anything planned so either days' work」(Kousuke)

「Alright, let's buy the stuff tomorrow then. Are you alright with money?」(Borudosu)「Mhmm, the money Alice gave me and my current savings will let me stay at this inn for another two months. Is that enough?」(Kousuke)「More than enough. We'll buy the stuff tomorrow then」(Borudosu)

「Got it. Which reminds me, can I bring Viare along to the ruins as well?」(Kousuke)

It seemed unlikely, but he wanted to make sure.

「That's probably not a good idea. If Viare was aiming to become an adventurer than it would be a different story though」(Borudosu)「I don't think I've ever heard anything like that about her. I was just asking so you don't have to think too much about it. Ah, one more thing. Are we walking there?」(Kousuke)「We are. Would that be an issue? I can get some horses if it's a problem」(Borudosu)「I've never ridden a horse before so I'll pass. Since I can use magic I figured I could fly to reduce the travel time」(Kousuke)「Are you able to fly while carrying me?」(Borudosu)

「I'm pretty sure I'll be fine. When I flew with a heavy luggage before I didn't waver or lose speed」(Kousuke)「That reminds me, elder sister would carry me and fly around when I was young」(Borudosu)

Borudosu showed an expression emitting nostalgia.

「During our travel there we'll have to climb over a mountain and travel through a river so flying over those parts would be a good idea」(Borudosu)「It's fine if I just fly for those places only?」(Kousuke)

「Yea, let's do that」(Borudosu)

With the conversation wrapped up Kousuke headed to the bathhouse then retired back to his room.

The following morning after the two ate breakfast, they headed to the orphanage and informed Viare they will be leaving town for a while on a request. Afterwards, Kousuke and Borudosu began to purchase supplies for the journey.

Around lunchtime they finished their shopping and separated. Borudosu had some work to do until tomorrow afternoon.

Kousuke returned to the inn to drop off the supplies. After dropping everything

off he was about to head out to the guild but he was stopped by Shidi. She wanted him to accept her delivery request. She needed some documents delivered to Ricardo. Since he told her he learned how to use teleportation magic she felt that this was a perfect opportunity.

Normally, a deliver done with teleportation magic is very expensive, but since the two didn't know the market price it ended up becoming 20% of the regular price. When the guild receptionists heard about this he received a lecture from them since it was too cheap.【**TL: Yo Kou-chan, girl be rippin you off**】

Time flew by and the appointed day arrived. Kousuke and Borudosu both left together on time and are currently standing before the ruins.

The journey here was rather eventless. Because they flew over the mountain and river, the two were able to cut half a day's worth of travel time.

While flying though, they were hit with a strong gust and it caused Kousuke to stagger. Borudosu turned deathly pale in fear from that. Other than that, only two weak monsters appeared so their travel was relatively peaceful.

It was Kousuke's first time using his sword in a month. Finding that out, Borudosu poked fun at Kousuke saying "How are we in the same profession if you're like that?".【**TL: Wait wait.. its been a MONTH already?!**】

The ruin was partially buried in a hill so the two could only see a part of it sticking out on the right side of the hill. To begin with, the discovery of this ruin was due to an earthquake revealing it.

The group that first discovered the ruin had to rope down from a crack to enter it. Many year has passed since then so a stair was built which would allow Kousuke and Borudosu an easy entry.

This ruin, based off the many years of research, was concluded to be a temple for one of this world's god. The temple had a lot of historical value based off the various journals and documents left by the original denizens. Everything of monetary value was stripped already so it was deemed a "dried ruin" by adventurers. The only things left were some old furniture and faded murals.

「Are you two the adventurers sent by the guild?」(???)

The guild personnel that was camped near the ruin approached the two.

「Yea, I'm Borudosu and this fella's Kousuke. The two of us are here to investigate the ruin」(Borudosu)「Would the two of you like to rest here tonight and enter the ruin tomorrow?」(Guild personnel)「Sure, we don't mind」(Borudosu)

「Then please follow me to the tent we have prepared for you」(Guild personnel)

The two rested for the evening to remove their fatigue from the journey. The following morning they prepped their gears and headed into the ruin.

The interior was damp and cold compared to outside. The reason for this was because the earthquake exposed a waterway, submerging a portion of the temple.

The entrance to the temple was lit up by the sunlight coming in, but the deeper portions of it were pitch black.

「Should I use magic to brighten up the area around us?」(Kousuke)

「Do you mind?」(Borudosu)

Kousuke casted《Light》twice, once on himself and once on Borudosu. Just like how Horun taught him, he summoned numerous light spheres around them.

「We don't have to map this area right?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke asked as he gripped the clipboard and sheet.

「We only need to map the newly discovered area」(Borudosu)

Borodosu, who knew where the new area was, took the lead.

The path to the new area had no monsters nor traps. For Kousuke, it gave him the opportunity to observe the surrounding in a relaxed manner.

The temple was eerily quiet and gave the sensation that causing a ruckus was disallowed. It reminded Kousuke of his school field trip to a temple back on Earth.**【TL: That.. Sounds like a terribly boring trip Kou-chan】**

「This is it」(Borudosu)

「It really doesn't look it was recently opened huh…」(Kousuke)

The passageway in front of the two was found when a wall was broken, but there were no debris from the breakage in sight. The edges of the broken wall didn't seem recently broken either.

「It was probably cleaned up to make it easier to walk through. Let's be careful from this point on though」(Borudosu)「Okay」(Kousuke)

The two entered the passage and began their investigation of the first room. Still.. It wasn't any different from the rest of the temple.

「A door to the left, check. I wonder if I'm doing this right…」(Kousuke)

Kousuke showed Borodosu what he drew since Borudosu knew more than Kousuke about mapping.

「That's fine for now. Just draw it a bit lighter so you can make corrections later in case its wrong」(Borudosu)「Got it」(Kousuke)

Borudosu approached the door to the left. He began observing the door's surrounding as he tapped and moved it a bit.

After confirming the door's status he called Kousuke over.

「This door is rigged with a trap. It's not lethal, just at the level of a prank」(Borudosu)「Mhmm mhmm」(Kousuke)

「So even if we fail to disarm this it won't cause much damage. So… try disarming it」(Borudosu)「That's impossible! I don't know how to examine and disarm traps!」(Kousuke)

「It'll be a good experience for you! Just inspect it carefully, you'll be fine」(Borudosu)

After proclaiming something absurd he stepped away from the door.

Kousuke sighed despondently and approached the door.

He stared at it blankly, not knowing what to do. He began to mimic what Borudosu just did to see if that might help.

『Touching this wooden door didn't help.. Tapping the door didn't help.. Examining around the door didn't help….』(Kousuke) After his fruitless investigation, the only spot left to check was the top of the door. Though wasteful, he used his flight magic to float above the door to examine it.

「Is this it? Hey Borudosu, I see a plank stuck between the wall and the door, do I take it out?」(Kousuke)「Correct! Give it a shot」(Borudosu)

The space between the door and the wall was too small for his hand so he pushed the plank in further with his sword.

Suddenly, a clanging sound on the other side of the door resounded.

「Wha.. WHAT!?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke trembled at the sound and turned around toward Borudosu.

Borudosu on the other hand had a calm expression as if everything was going according to plan.

「You'll understand once you open the door」(Borudosu)

When he opened the door he saw a bucket and plank on the floor. It was.. Just a prank to drop a bucket on your head when you open the door.

「Ah.. So this is what you meant by a prank」(Kousuke)

It's just like grade school prank, placing a chalkboard eraser on the sliding door.

「Like I said, a prank level trap. It'll only scare you when the bucket drops. Of course, if the bucket was filled with something dangerous then it could easily become lethal. This trap has one more role, can you see it?」(Borudosu)
「Another role?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke tilted his head in confusion.

「An alarm against intruders」(Borudosu)

「Oh…」(Kousuke)

「A method to deal with a similar trap like this is to use a silencing magic before

triggering it or if you can find another way in use that instead. Simple right? It's a simple type of trap but it gets triggered easily so it's rather troublesome. Well, even if something heard it now it would probably just be a few monsters so as an alarm it's pretty useless」(Borudosu)

『We'll be fighting them anyways so no big deal』Thought Borudosu as he nonchalantly answered.

Beyond the door were two hallways. The right hallway was only ten meters long with a door at the end of it. The left hallway was much longer and their light spheres couldn't illuminate to its end.

They proceeded down the shorter, right hallway and began investigating the door.

「I don't think there are any traps on this door. I'll open it」(Borudosu)

Borudosu carefully opened the door. He was careful just in case he overlooked a trap.

With no mistake in his judgment, the door opened without any incident.

「Hmm, there's nothing in here either」(Borudosu)

「So let's head to the next room then」(Kousuke)

The two proceeded in further.

Suddenly, Borudosu stopped making Kousuke freeze as well.

His gaze was glued towards the ground.

「It's a pitfall」(Borudosu)

「Ah, the floor color does look different」(Kousuke)

The hall being dark definitely made it difficult to see, but Kousuke didn’t notice it at all until it was pointed out.

It would be noticeable if it were brighter, but in this dark hall it was nearly invisible. This showed the experience gap between Borudosu and Kousuke.

As Borudosu tapped the ground with his axe, the false floor gave away and exposed the pitfall.

【TL: When did he get an AXE?!】

「Traps being set in these kind of hallways are very common so never relax. Got it?」(Borudosu)「Yes」(Kousuke)

The two proceeded further as they avoided the pitfall.

This time, Kousuke showed his vigilance.

He noticed a tripwire trap in front of him and stepped over it.

The moment he did the floor suddenly sunk a bit and felt something crashing onto his head. It was a barrel.

「It’s a double trap. The first one was meant to lower your guard once you avoid it. By the way, you would have noticed the second one if you just looked at the ceiling」(Borudosu)

Looking towards where Borudosu pointed, the ceiling showed signs of the barrel being rigged there.

「The reason why you fell for it was because of the pitfall trap earlier, you were too focused on the ground. Traps could be rigged anywhere so you have to carefully observe your entire surrounding」(Borudosu)

Since it wasn’t a dangerous trap, Borudosu once again, reminded Kousuke to be more vigilant. Borudosu was hoping Kousuke would learn from experiencing this.

「Somehow.. I feel there's so much to learn」(Kousuke)

「It's good you're learning this before it gets complicated. C'mon, let's keep going」(Borudosu)

Kousuke followed Borudosu who took the lead once more.

The hall had a bend up ahead and as they made that turn a door was visible.

「This door, we need a key. I'll be opening the door soon but keep this in mind when you try the same thing, don't look through the keyhole directly. Needles or other harmful substances might shoot out of it」(Borudosu)

Borudosu took out his lock picks, looked into the keyhole with a mirror then proceeded to pick the lock.

The process made a lot of clinking noises before the door was quickly opened

Kousuke's mouth was agape in astonishment.

「It's probably a bit late to say this but.. You know how to do quite a lot. How should I say this? I always thought you were just a combat specialist」(Kousuke)

Kousuke's conclusion of Borudosu's ability could be blamed by the fact that Borudosu has the《Berserker》gift.

But that gift was the cause of him being so well-rounded. Borodosu had trouble finding others to group with because of that gift so he had to learn to do everything alone.

These various techniques were taught to him by Alice.

「When I just became an adventurer I was viewed as a liability by others since I didn't have the "Survivor" title. So I had to learn how to pick locks and avoid traps by myself. After doing it so many times I became quite skilled. Still, it's not too bad these days since I can find groups for requests with little to no combat」(Borudosu)

Borudosu handed the mirror and the lock picks over. Kousuke just stared blankly at him. He had no idea why he was given these.

「Why are you giving me these?」(Kousuke)

「I'm going to go in and lock the door, try unlocking it yourself. You probably have no idea how so just wiggle it around randomly」(Borudosu

Borudosu quickly entered and locked the door.

Kousuke tried to imitate Borudosu and began his lock picking attempt. Suddenly, he noticed a difference between the lock and the door. Both were old, but they seemed to be different in how old they were. Thinking he was just imagining it he continued his work.

The sound of metal clinking continued for five minutes. It was impossible to pick the lock with just random attempts.

Kousuke, fed up, pulled the lock pick out and smashed the door.**【TL: HULK SMASH PUNY DOOR!】**

「You gave up a lot faster than I expected」(Borudosu)

「I don't have the knack for these kind of things so its impossible」(Kousuke)

「I guess that's true. It's also true that just doing it randomly would work sometime too. Well, when we get back let's borrow some practice material from the guild. I'll show you the ropes」(Borudosu)「We can borrow something like that?」(Kousuke)

「They have one set they can loan out. You can even practice setting and disarming traps too. In the end though it's just practice. The tension and the fulfilling feeling of getting through it out in the field is incomparable. Plus, people without experience tend to mess up when it matters regardless of how much they practice」(Borudosu)

They added more to the map and proceeded deeper. They travelled all over, finding cellars, secret rooms and more. The map progressively became larger and clearer.

There were very little monsters too. Cowardly rat monsters and fish monsters in submerged rooms. They ignored the fish monsters since going in the water was pointless.

As they proceeded deeper, Kousuke became better at finding and disarming traps. There was even a trap that released magic, but he left it alone.

It was because Borudosu told Kousuke to avoid those type of traps if he isn't confident in disarming them.

Eventually, the complexity of the traps increased to the point that Borudosu couldn't disarm them. Some simply triggered because they got too close.

「Danger?!」(Kousuke)

Many arrows would fly out of the walls at them.

「Hothothot!!!」(Kousuke)

And dragon-like statues breathed fire at them.

「AHHH!?」(Kousuke)

And the two would slip and fall on oil-slicked ramps.

「Just break the damn ceiling!」(Borudosu)

And the two would break out of sealed rooms with falling ceilings by bashing it open. Such thrilling experiences the two were forced to share.

Among their "experiences" was a trap beyond the level of a prank that almost

claimed their lives. A floodgate opened and a torrent of acid poured out forcing the two to desperately flee for their lives.

To make matters worse, they didn't trigger this trap, a rat monster did in passing. The torrent of acid melted the monsters it touched, but the two had no time to watch such a grotesque scene.

「…….. Something feels off」(Kousuke)

Kousuke spoke after successfully escaping the acid trap.

「What's wrong?」(Borudosu)

「Whatever the circumstance might be, this volume of traps is weird. And they're consistently getting worse too」(Kousuke) 「Really now? Well, we're probably close to the end so let's just finish this up quickly」(Borudosu)

Looking at the overall progress of the map it really did look like it was almost complete.

Kousuke, still not convinced, followed Borudosu into a spacious room. In the middle of this room was a giant quadruped. It was as tall as Borudosu and was about four meters long from head to tail. It glared at the two as it drooled slovenly like it was starved.

「OH C'MON! This is even more wrong! Look at that cage! Its more dismantled than destroyed!」(Kousuke)

It would make sense if something like that broke out of the cage, but the bars only had small scratches, showing that there was no way this beast broke its way out.

Everything about this looked planned and artificial.

「You should focus on the monster before anything else right now!」(Borudosu)

Kousuke agreed and drew his sword. The two stood their ground against the monster.

The two effortlessly won the battle in a quick fashion. That monster was stronger than what they've encountered in the ruin so far, but it was something Borudosu could easily handle alone.

「Kousuke」(Borudosu)

「Yes?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke who was observing the "broken" cage was called by Borudosu who was dismantling the monster.

「This time you don't seem so regretful, did you get used to it?」(Borudosu)

『He's probably thinking about the first time I killed a Lutz Monkey』Kousuke thought.

「I'm.. Pretty sure I'm not used to it, but this time around, since it was a larger monster, I felt the danger to myself was greater than my sense of guilt」(Kousuke)「Danger to yourself? That monster wasn't THAT strong you know?」(Borudosu)

「That ferocious monster lived and grew to that size, it was the first time seeing something like that for me you know. It didn't make me feel threatened with its actual strength, it made me feel threatened with its appearance」(Kousuke)「You should have been able to tell it was weak by its aura」(Borudosu)

「Forget about that for a second, take a look at this」(Kousuke)

Kousuke picked up a piece of the cage.

「There are some signs that the monster attacked the cage, but it really doesn't look like the cage was broken by that monster. It's as if someone scattered it with one blow. Perhaps someone is hiding in this area. The insane volume of traps from before would make sense if that's the case.

「That's incorrect. Hideouts usually have the basic needs covered right? Have you seen any food or water around?」(Borudosu)

Kousuke searched his memory before shaking his head.

「If it's not a hideout then who was taking care of this monster? It was too energetic and there's no food and water, it can't possibly be that ancient」(Kousuke)「I also think the same. Ignoring the increasing complexity of the traps, I wonder what were the guild personnel thinking」(Borudosu)「People from the guild?」(Kousuke)

「Since we explored everything already it's probably fine to expose it now」(Borudosu)

Borudosu explained everything as they headed for the exit.

The area the two explored today was actually already explored many years ago. So why was Borudosu and Kousuke given this exploration request? It was to give Kousuke some experience as Borudosu originally said. The guild's expectation was to rapidly improve Kousuke's talents by making him train on a "live field".

Kousuke was doubtful as to the necessity of all this, but also understood that they had very high expectations out of him.

The guild put an enormous amount of effort in producing this "training dungeon" for Kousuke. It was worth it in their eye since if a problem arose in this dungeon and a rescue was required, they could "recommend" it to Kousuke who would definitely complete it.

「So it was just training using a real dungeon. Not knowing about this kept my tension up and it really did feel like the real deal. I understand this but, how could they call this practice with those death traps they left here!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke just couldn't comprehend this.

The acid trap wasn't the only lethal one. The magic trap they ignored actually releases《Water Cutter》and there were even poison coated steel wires placed in a few spots.

「Even I wasn't given all the details. I was just requested to take you here and explore together with you. They told me they set up some traps, but to this extent.. I didn't expect that. There are a few guild personnel just outside so let's ask them」(Borudosu)

The reply they got from them was "We got too into it".

The traps weren't set up by the guild but by an expert they hired. Since the expert was allowed to work to his heart's content he went a *bit* overboard. The guild personnel were deeply impressed by the expert's performance and forgot to stop him, leading to those lethal traps being set.

In fact, these guild personnel were looking forward to the two tripping on the traps.

「ARE!! YOU!! IDIOTS!? WE COULD HAVE DIED!」(Borudosu)

Hearing Borudosu's scream, the guild personnel's faces paled at this realization.

Their heads looked like they would fly off as they kept bowing in apology.

Kousuke smiled dryly at this scene.

With this, Kousuke's first "Dungeon Attack" ended up becoming something more difficult than originally planned.

Still, he learned a lot from this since its degree of difficulty was very high. It was certain that his future dungeon explorations would be easier thanks to today's events.

Otherwise it would have been a waste of time for Borudosu who was partially dragged into the same mess.【**TL: Poor Borudosu…**】

ToC

14

Hiyo~

This was a fun chapter with many references to my childhood too! Enjoy!

Monk

Chapter 14: The Old Hero Visits a Foreign Land!

「Isn’t it heavy? Want me to carry some for you?」(???)

The man in his early 40’s asked Kousuke for the third time. To that, Kousuke returned the same answer.

「I’m not having a tough time so don’t worry about it」(Kousuke)

「Even if you tell me that… I still think it’s too heavy for you」(???)

The man’s face twisted as he looked at Kousuke and what he’s carrying behind him.

Everyone else around the two had a similar expression. The only person who was calm was Borudosu.

Kousuke was carrying the heaviest thing alone in the group. He was pulling a fully packed cart that would normally require two horses to pull with an absolutely calm expression. It was a scene a normal person would completely doubt.

The reason why Kousuke is pulling the cart alone is a story from two hours ago.

On their way back, just three hours away from town, Borudosu and Kousuke saw a gathering of people ahead.

「What's going on here?」(Kousuke)

「Maybe their carts' wheel broke off?」(Borudosu)

They approached the group and confirmed that there was nothing wrong with the carts.

The group ran into some bad luck. A mob of monsters attacked them and the horses that were originally pulling the carts are either dead or heavily wounded.

They had some people capable of fighting the monsters, but the enemy was too great in number and they couldn't protect the horses.

「We treated the horses that are still alive, but now we're stranded because we don't have enough horses to pull all of the carts. We could manually pull the carts and bring most of them with us, but we would have to leave a few」(???)「I see. If that's what happened then we'll help. Kousuke, think you can pull that cart over there alone?」(Borudosu)

Borudosu pointed at the heavily packed luggage cart.

He questioned in a doubtful sounding manner, but he was 100% confident Kousuke could do it.

「I won't know unless I try, but it should be ok, probably」(Kousuke)

「No, that's impossible! One horse wasn't enough to pull it and two just barely got it to move!」(???)「I'll give it a try at least」(Kousuke)

Kousuke crouched with his back facing the cart, grabbed the bottom of the cart, and pulled. Just as Borudosu and Kousuke expected, the cart moved.

「It’s not heavy so it’s alright. This position is a bit uncomfortable though」(Kousuke)「Wooow, this is a big surprise! You’re quite strong aren’t you?」(???)

The man exclaimed, his face mixed with shock and awe.

「I’m just a bit stronger than most」(Kousuke)

「You call that a bit stronger?!」(???)

The man brought a rope and ties it to the cart Kousuke’s pulling to act as a handle.

He confirmed the rope won’t unfurl and watched in awe once more at Kousuke’s immense strength pulling the cart.

The group, no longer stranded, proceeded to move towards St. Beria.

Borudosu was also pulling a different cart with a few people, displaying that his strength is also abnormally high.【**TL: Kou-chan’s cheat specs are still higher though. Borudosu, you have my pity~**】

Kousuke conversed with the man besides him to learn more about their group as he leisurely pulled the cart.

They were a troupe that does acrobatics to theatrical plays, travelling around various countries on a fixed schedule to perform. This month their destination to perform was St. Beria.

It was a mid-sized troupe with 35 people. The man Kousuke was speaking with is called Randolph, the chairman. Their dream is to perform in a big city and make it big. Randolph’s eyes sparkled brightly as he spoke with Kousuke about it.

「Thank you so much for your help」(Randolph)

Having reached St. Beria, Randolph bowed in gratitude towards Kousuke and Borudosu.

The rest of the troupe members were setting up tents to prepare for the evening.

「We were heading the same way so you don't have to worry about it. Plus, it didn't really tire me out」(Kousuke)「Yea, that's right. Walking back normally would have been the same for us」(Borudosu)

The two weren't lying, neither were tired at all.

「You two carried all of that.. I would have preferred to hear you were tired. It makes us feel depressed thinking that we're very weak」(Randolph)「To us adventurers, strength is our capital!」(Borudosu)**【TL: Capital –> Fund –> Selling point】**

「Even the adventurers I know aren't unbelievably strong as you two you know? For your assistance, I'll have the admission fees waived for you two and your family, friends and lovers. Please come by all means. In addition, I'll provide the best seats on the house!」(Randolph)

The two told Randolph they'll be looking forward to it and entered the town. They went straight to the guild. They want to hand in the ruin exploration results and begin practicing lock picking.

「Welcome back you two. It seems you two returned earlier than expected」(Diane)

Diane, who was on break, saw the two as she returned to the guild and called out to them.

「We're back」(Kousuke)

「We've returned. We were able to finish quickly since Kousuke carried me and flew over the mountain and river」(Borudosu)【**TL: And you almost crapped yourself that time too**】

「Ah that's right, he's able to use flight magic. Reducing travel time with that is definitely possible」(Diane)「I can travel even faster next time around with teleportation magic. If a reason for me to go comes up that is」(Kousuke)「You can use teleportation magic too I see」(Diane)

Diane was surprised at Kousuke's statement.

「I learned it recently. It's short ranged and I can't bring anyone with me though」(Kousuke)「But you're able to make delivery trips to Ricardo correct?」(Diane)

「I've already done that before for someone I know」(Kousuke)

「I.. See… You've become quite the handy person」(Diane)

「What do you mean by "Handy"?」(Borudosu)

Hearing Diane's muttering, Borudosu chimed in playfully.

「Teleportation magic is a very handy. There was currently only one person who could use teleportation magic in this town. Having another one in town would make for a very happy occasion」(Diane)「The only places I can teleport to at the moment are Ricardo, Zeldan and the Western Hollows though」(Kousuke)「Just being able to teleport to Ricardo will allow you to complete most delivery requests we receive with ease」(Diane)

Requests using teleportation magic were originally monopolized by that one person. Kousuke was initially afraid his presence would cause a disturbance, but heard later that the other individual was already married, had children who grew up and left the home, and had a fortune saved up already. Rather, that person would prefer less requests going to him so he could visit his grandchildren more

often.

Of course, Kousuke taking all of the requests would be problematic, but Kousuke has no intention of doing that so there should be no issues at all.

Diane's break ended and the two headed to the reception to turn in the request.

They finished the paperwork and received their reward. When Kousuke received the reward he stared at it with an unconvinced look.

「… It was for training but I still got a reward」(Kousuke)

「On the surface it was a request after all, it's only normal to receive some sort of reward. Keep what you can get for now, thinking like that isn't too bad right?」(Borudosu)「Yea, I'll keep that in mind」(Kousuke)

He stowed the money away into his bag and headed to the practice lock area.

The guild limited who was allowed to practice lock picking techniques on site. There's a possibility that there are those with malicious intent within the crowd so only those who pass a certain set of criteria may utilize the guild's lock picking training.

The individual requires the approval of the majority of the guild staff, a recommendation from someone who's already approved, and a binding contract that would force the person providing the recommendation to be responsible for the applicant in case he/she uses the training for evil. These three conditions must be met.

Borudosu was currently signing that contract.

There were seven locks placed in front of Kousuke by Borudosu with the complexity increasing from right to left.

「If you can unlock all seven of these then you'll be able to open most locks

without trouble. Most locks that exist are variants of these seven locks. If you see a lock that isn't similar to one of these seven locks then it's probably rigged with magic. There are some uniquely made locks that can't be picked easily though so it's best to just make sure there's no traps on it and bash it open. That's what I did when I had to deal with one. This is the unique lock by the way」(Borudosu)

Borudosu pointed at the lock fourth from the right.

「You broke and brought back that lock?」(Kousuke)

「If you bring back a lock with a unique mechanism to the guild, they'll buy it off you for quite a bit」(Borudosu)

The reasons? It's profitable for the guild and business owners love to see possible improvements to the safety of their possessions.

If it's brought back to the guild, they'll replicate it with the help of a locksmith and sell it to business owners. It's roughly the same if it's brought to a large business as well.

Most adventurers would elect to hand it into the guild though. The large businesses would only provide monetary rewards while the guild provide money as well as an increase to their adventurer rank.

「Let's practice one at a time, for now just watch」(Borudosu)

Borudosu began unlocking the locks one at a time from the easiest to hardest.

The easiest one was opened instantly with just one lock pick while the hardest one took ten minutes and three lock picks to open. Borudosu already practiced using these locks before so he was opening them faster than most would. Despite that, the hardest one still took some time.

「…….That about wraps up the demonstration. Start with the easiest one first.

You just need to stick this lock pick in and twist a bit to open it. Just keep in mind the position of the lock pick's tip」(Borudosu)

The locks were reset and Borudosu gave Kousuke the keys and lock picks.

「Once you put in the lock pick you should be able to tell when to twist when you feel it get stuck a bit. Twist when you do and it should open」(Borudosu) 「Ah, it opened. This one opened too easily, isn't that a bit unreliable as a lock?」(Kousuke) 「This lock is used to keep a container sealed from leaking. It's not meant to keep people out」(Borudosu)

With the two flinging questions and answers back and forth the lock picking training continued.

After an hour the two stopped talking. During that hour, Kousuke became skilled enough to be able to smoothly open up to the fourth lock. At the pace he was going at, the remaining three locks would be easily opened as well.

「I taught you everything I know. You should be able to do it all alone now」(Borudosu) 「Thank you. But what about magic-based locks?」(Kousuke)

「Magic-based locks.. Well it's pointless to try to unlock them」(Borudosu)

「Why?」(Kousuke)

「Each of them have different conditions to open so the things you learned today won't help in any way. Most of them do not even have a keyhole. The ones I've opened so far I had to sometimes burn it, douse it in water or use an object that the lock was paired with. The only advice I can give you about magic-based locks is to not miss any hints about it. Any information about it in others' memos or from the condition of the lock can prove to be indispensable. If you want more details just ask someone from the guild, they should have some reference books for it」(Borudosu) 「I'll take a look some other time then」(Kousuke)

The two left the training room and saw Randolph at the counter.

「Randolph-san?」(Kousuke)

「Ooh! The two of you were here as well I see!」(Randolph)

「Yes, we had some business to attend to here. Did Randolph-san come here to have a request set up?」(Kousuke)「Yes, I require some construction assistance」(Randolph)

「Oh, well, maybe I should accept it then」(Kousuke)

Kousuke asked the guild receptionist to prepare the paperwork.

「I would appreciate the help of someone as strong as you Watase-san, but is that fine?」(Randolph)「It's not that different from the usual requests I accept though」(Kousuke)

「Speaking of adventurers, I've always thought they would aim for requests with thrills and high rewards. Aren't these type of requests usually taken by adventurers who lack funds or have too much free time? If you're short on money I do not mind providing a reward for your previous assistance」(Randolph)「This guy tries to avoid dangerous things and always does these types of mundane tasks. Because of that, there's no one who fully understands his abilities」(Borudosu)

The guild is troubled with Kousuke since they cannot tell what his limits are.

「Haa… Is that so? If it's not troublesome for you to accept then I look forward to working with you tomorrow」(Randolph)

Randolph lowered his head.

Kousuke also informed Randolph that he plans on bringing Viare along as a volunteer worker.

Noticing Randolph's confused look, Kousuke explained to him why Viare is coming as a volunteer worker. Borudosu and Kousuke left the guild building after.

The following day, Kousuke and Viare headed to where the troupe was camped.

Randolph and his crew were already setting up the stages when they arrived. The two received various tasks and began their work.

Kousuke assisted with the construction and Viare handled babysitting, cooking and other day-to-day tasks for the troupe's family. Randolph gave Viare her current tasks because she looked the part and would unlikely make a mistake.

There were other adventurers that accepted this request as well. Around five of them could be seen working alongside the troupe members.

The troupe was planning on doing a play so rather than an encompassed circus stage, a theater stage was being built.

Before anything else, the theater stage was first completed. The actors immediately began their rehearsals upon its completion.

They weren't rehearsing to memorize lines since they've done that already while travelling. Instead, they were rehearsing the actions on the stage. Randolph could be seen on the side giving directions to the actors.

Kousuke was watching them rehearse while hammering stakes into the ground.

Before long, lunchtime came and Viare, who finally got her break, called out to Kousuke.

「It's break time, Kousuke-san」(Viare)

「Roooger that!」(Kousuke)

Dropping the stake he had in his hand, Kousuke accepted the invitation.

「What's on the menu today?」(Kousuke)

「Sandwich, ground meat and vegetable soup, and some fruits」(Viare)

There were many people crowding the table and already eating lunch.

The two mixed into the crowd to get lunch. The actors stopped their rehearsals as well and joined in.

Randolph approached Kousuke after noticing him.

「How's the food? Does it match your palate?」(Randolph)

「It's definitely not a local taste. I quite like it」(Kousuke)

Most of the sandwiches were prepared with various spices and gave Kousuke an opportunity to try varied, spicy flavors.【**TL: Pretty sure that's the purpose of spices.. Kou-chan..**】

When the spiciness of the sandwiches became too rich, Kousuke ate the mild-flavored soup and fruits to cleanse his palate.

「Is that so? Good, good!」(Randolph)

Randolph nodded happily as he began eating.

The two began to discuss about the troupe. Kousuke was curious about the play's story.

「"The Bride of Rudbeckia", are you familiar with this book?」(Randolph)

「AH! I heard about it! It was read to me when I was a child」(Viare)

Since Viare seemed to know she began explaining the story to the clueless looking Kousuke.

「The story's about the son and daughter of two noble houses that had bad blood between each other」(Viare)【**TL: Romulo and Julianne?! If anyone gets this HIGH FIVE since you definitely have no life like me!**】

Hearing the summary, Kousuke felt the premise of the story was similar to "Romeo and Juliet".

As he heard more details, he concluded it was only roughly similar. Kousuke wasn't too familiar with "Romeo and Juliet" so in the end he didn't care much for the difference. He was just satisfied hearing the summary of it.

「Honestly, I wanted to show a more grandiose play for our audience」(Randolph)

「What do you mean by grandiose? Do you mean a more lively story or a more boisterous production?」(Kousuke)「It would be the production. I would like to do both though」(Randolph)

「Could you give me an example of such story?」(Kousuke)

「Let's see…… The story about Hero Theclatocs vanquishing a fire giant is one」(Randolph)【**TL:** セクラトクス **sekuratokusu.. Sounds like "Secular talks" lol**】

「Theclatocs?」(Kousuke)

Viare and Randolph showed a shocked expression at Kousuke.

「You don't know? He's quite a famous figure though」(Viare)

「Well… I'm still in the process of studying various things」(Kousuke)

「I have a copy of the book at home, I'll lend it to you later」(Viare)

Kousuke nodded at Viare's offer.

「The story is about Theclatocs's journey to vanquish the giant that has been terrorizing the people, as you've probably guessed. His journey was a perilous one and his battle with the giant even more, with great flames of explosions spreading everywhere. He barely wins by giving it his all. Something around this」(Viare)「It sounds like something boys would love to hear」(Kousuke)

「I agree. It's very popular among the boys. I was hoping our venue could be something original and flashy like that. Sadly, it's difficult to find something similar」(Randolph)

Randolph shook his head "dejectedly". Seeing no sense of resignation, it's safe to assume he was still hoping deep inside himself that it will one day become a reality.

While the three rambled on, the break was over.

The afternoon's task was to prepare the seating area for the audience by removing the grass and pebbles. Kousuke kept thinking about Randolph's hope for a flashy play as he cleared the field non-stop.

『I haven't seen a play since I was a kid』Kousuke thought while bathing himself in nostalgia. He recalled when his parents took him to a "Hero Show" at an amusement park when he was a child.【**TL: Supah pahti! Funtasticu spahkaru! Letsu gooh nambah waan! Image below is not from the book~**】

Then he realized something. Why not let them perform a “Hero Show”? It fitted Randolph’s criteria of flashy AND original (for this world). Furthermore, this world has magic that can do all the SFX so it looked possible. He truly wanted to see something like that here. The scene of the hero’s explosive kick floated into his mind and Kousuke became impatient.

「Kousuke-san? Why did you stop working?」(Viare)

Viare, who was weeding alongside him, asked.

「Ah, sorry sorry!」(Kousuke)

「It looked like you were smiling really happily.. Is weeding really fun for you?」(Viare)「No no! I just thought of something small, that’s all」(Kousuke)

Viare tilted her head seeing Kousuke in an unusually good mood.

In the end, Kousuke's mood was brimming with happiness even after the work was done.

The ground that was cleared of grass and stones was raised by a troupe's mage with the most mana to produce a fan-shaped slope. The slope would be where the audience would be seated.

With everything done, the construction request was complete. Decorations and the likes would be handled by the troupe members later.

The adventurers that helped received the "Proof of Completion" and left.

Viare was ecstatic since she also received a "Proof of Completion".

「Let's go back Kousuke-san」(Viare)

「I have something to talk about with Randolph-san so I won't leave yet」(Kousuke)

「Well then, I'll be heading back first alright?」(Viare)

「Mhmm, see you tomorrow?」(Kousuke)

「Yes」(Viare)

Viare bowed and headed back to town… Skipping happily. Receiving a "Proof of Completion" for her hard work, she was obviously elated.

After seeing Viare off until she disappeared past the town's entrance, Kousuke headed toward Randolph.

「Oh, Watase-san? You haven't left yet?」(Randolph)

「I have a small proposal about an interesting play」(Kousuke)

「A proposal is it」(Randolph)

「I have an idea about a flashy play. Would you like to hear more?」(Kousuke)

「.. Hmm」(Randolph)

Randolph was slightly taken aback, thinking there was something hidden in his words.

「…… If you want us to pay for the idea, just to remind you, we don't have much money」(Randolph)「Pay for the idea? … I didn't even think of that」(Kousuke)

「Hearing that, it seems you weren't thinking about getting money out of this」(Randolph)「That's right, I was just too excited thinking that I may possibly be able to see this idea with my own eyes. I didn't even think about money, that's how excited I was」(Kousuke)

Seeing how lightly Kousuke was speaking, Randolph felt that he had no ulterior motives.

「…. Please, come with me. Let's discuss the details in my tent」(Randolph-san)

The two sat inside an area in the tent that was seemingly marked off as a paperwork zone.

「The proposal Watase-san wishes to share, can you indulge me the details?」(Randolph)「Where I'm from it's called a "Hero Show" you see. It's not about an actual existence from the past, but rather, a fictional hero's story. His name is "Ride Hero"」(Kousuke)**【TL: The reference is to "Kamen Rider"】**

「… I've never heard of such a being before」(Randolph)

「I figured」(Kousuke)

『If he knew I'd fall off the chair』Kousuke thought.

「The story is well-suited for children. The main story is about a hero fighting against an evil organization hell bent on world conquest. The story is written so that there's no need to deeply read into it. That way, all the children would be able to understand. Each part of the story is about 25 minutes long so they won't get bored and restless either. The climax of each part is when the protagonist transforms and when he uses his signature move」(Kousuke)
「Transform? Like the "Lycanthropy" gift some people have?」(Randolph)【**TL: Lycanthropy: The supernatural transformation of a person into a beast**】

Being unfamiliar with the term, the only thing Randolph could compare it to was the gift "Lycanthropy". In this world, there were no heroes that would wear an "Enhancement suit" and combat evil.

「No, the protagonist was kidnapped by a mysterious person from an evil organization and modified into a monster-like being. Before he was brainwashed, he escaped and decided to use his newly gained power for good」(Kousuke)

When "Ride Hero" was televised, it had two story arcs. Kousuke was explaining to Randolph the first arc. To give Randolph a better understanding of "Ride Hero" Kousuke explained everything about him in a way relevant to this world's common sense.

The first generation of "Ride Hero's" setting was thoroughly explained so Kousuke began explaining the first story arc. Of course, while trying to omit things that only exist on Earth. The exception was the bike. He thought to replace it with a horse but despite knowing Randolph wouldn't understand he left that in.

When Kousuke finished explaining the premise Randolph questioned about the requirements of the production and the direction and organization of the story. Fight scenes, explosion scenes, narrator moderated scenes, Kousuke answered

to the best of what his memory could recall. Kousuke's a beginner when it comes to theatrical plays so when Randolph questioned him about the production and direction of the play he had no clear answers. Randolph, being a professional, wanted to hear what Kousuke wished to see with these questions.

「It sounds interesting, but there are a few problems with this. You called it "transformation" correct? I still can't figure out the appearance of the protagonist after transforming and what exactly is a "baiku"? There's also the issue of expense. Since the story is aimed for the children then there's the possibility the adults would not be interested, dropping our potential audience count」(Randolph)「I'll leave some information about the transformation and bike for you to look over later. As for gathering clients, I have another idea for that. Did you know that having someone attractive appointed for the main and supporting roles draws in customers?」(Kousuke)「Having a beautiful hostess is commonly used to attract customers, so yes I do know」(Randolph)

Randolph thought for a moment and came to a conclusion.

「… Let's give this a try. Since it's only about 25 minutes it'll be easy to rehearse and set up. For now, could you list the necessary props and essentials we would need for this play?」(Randolph)

『They'll definitely need someone to play "Ride Hero", the monsters, and the evil organization's henchmen』Kousuke thought.

「I wonder if I should draw out those things for him. I hope it comes out well」(Kousuke)

He didn't have to worry about it. Kousuke would rapidly get better with a little practice drawing. It's not like he needed to draw a masterpiece anyways. He just simply needed to draw the images he has in his head.

Although, Kousuke actually had an easier method of explanation instead of drawing. He didn't realize this until after he became good at drawing.

He felt a little depressed since he wasted paper, which are expensive in this world. It wasn't a complete loss though since, at the very least, he became very proficient at drawing.

Incidentally, the paper of this world isn't made of reeds or other vegetation. It's produced by the dehydration of a mixture of ocean water and a unique fluid.

「Would it be fine to continue the rest of this tomorrow?」(Randolph)

「When do you want me to drop by tomorrow?」(Kousuke)

「I'll be busy from the morning to afternoon so the evening if you could. By evening I should be in this tent」(Randolph)「Alright, I'll try to drop by tomorrow evening then. I'll stop for today」(Kousuke)

「Yes, thank you for everything today」(Randolph)

He led Kousuke out of the tent and returned inside to begin writing down the details of their discussion. He did so for the troupe, but more so because it was a story he's never heard about despite being well-travelled. The troupe's income was heavily reliant on stories they learn of during their travel.

The following day, Kousuke and Viare completed two requests before Kousuke separated to meet with Randolph. He asked a familiar face among the troupe about Randolph's location and, once again, ended up in front of the same tent.

「Randolph-san, I'll be intruding」(Kousuke)

Kousuke spoke from the tent's entrance and received consent before entering.

After the two greeted each other they continued from where they left off last night.

「How's the progress on the costume designs? The details of the costumes might be difficult, but the basics of it should be done already right?」(Randolph)
「Yes, those are ready」(Kousuke)

Kousuke brought out the designs and placed them out on the table.

「Hou… this is quite..」(Randolph)

Randolph leaked an astonished voice seeing the drawings.

In addition to it being splendidly drawn, it provided a detailed drawing of the head, the entire front and back of the body and its lateral views. "Ride Hero's" design wasn't the only thing drawn, "Fake Hero's" design was also there. The mysterious person, Man-Spider and Leopard-Man, four extra character designs were drawn. Even the bike was drawn.

Randolph was shocked at the progress rate in just two days.

「This is wonderful! I truly did not expect to be presented something of this caliber!」(Randolph)「Hearing that, it makes me glad that I placed a great deal of effort」(Kousuke)

Kousuke happily laughed.

「This isn't the only thing I wanted to show you though」(Kousuke)

He teasingly laughed and stood up.

「TRANS—FOORM!」(Kousuke)**【TL: -ers, robots in disguise~】**

Kousuke took up “Ride Hero’s” transformation pose and, after one second, actually transformed into “Ride Hero”.

Randolph’s eyes widened in complete shock at the scene.

「Does it match the design?」(Kousuke)

He spun on the spot to show every angle of the costume.

Randolph excitedly examined every bit of Kousuke and his costume.

Seeing no flaws, he shook his head in silence. Being able to see the colors for the costume that the drawings lacked, he had no complaints.

「That’s a relief. I couldn’t look at the entire thing on me by myself」

「But.. How do you do this? Do you really have a transformation belt? Or did you actually make one!?」(Randolph)「I used magic. I’m just wearing an illusory costume」(Kousuke)

This was the easy to understand method Kousuke had.

When he was placing the final touches to the drawings, he felt that it would be alright as long as the gist of his idea was conveyed. But that was just an assumption, not reality. While he was pondering how he could display even more details, he remembered that he could use illusion magic.

Since it was technically just a change in appearance, whether a maid or “Ride Hero”, there wasn’t much difference.

Without delay, he used the magic and in one shot was able to reproduce the costume. He had the image clearly in his head since he was recently sketching the idea so there was no chance of it failing.

「Magic! I see, with magic! I honestly thought you truly became “Ride Hero”

since you took up the transformation pose」(Randolph)

Randolph was unable to notice Kousuke simultaneously using magic while posing earlier, which resulted in his earlier misunderstanding.

「If the actors learn how to use this type of magic I believe the need for costumes would be removed. Do you think they'll be able to learn it?」(Kousuke)

At this moment, Kousuke doesn't understand that the nature of his suggestion is fundamentally impossible.

His magic produces a "real" illusion where it tricks all the senses of others. Ordinary people simply cannot use it due to its high requirements. The magic they would be able to use would be illusions with no tangibility.

「I'm not certain. Just in case, I prefer having the costumes prepared. So, could you head over to the props department so they could have a good look at your costume? Also, please teach your magic to the head magician of my troupe」(Randolph)

Kousuke nodded and dispelled the illusory costume.

The two discussed further about "Ride Hero's" signature jump kick move, "Ride Kick". They agreed to use magic that emits a flash and produces an explosive sound the moment the kick lands. A combination of the two would be similar to a stun grenade, but such a magic doesn't exist. Luckily, it's reproducible if it's done separately. The villains exploding from the kick, this effect could be achieved with magic smoke and sound as well it seemed. The abilities of the villains would be managed with magic as well.

Randolph was grinning like a child with a new toy. This play, it might become his ideal play! Unable to contain himself, he was pondering where he should start.

That day, the only thing Kousuke did was assist the prop department with the costume design.. By being stared at with the illusory costume on.

The troupe had other plays to rehearse and perform so they couldn't only focus on the "Hero Show". Nevertheless, Randolph would use his spare time to make preparations for it.

Even Kousuke would drop by to give some advice in between his requests. The "Hero Show" was slowly taking shape.

When the troupe was ready to perform the "Hero Show", it was past the originally planned date. It's already been twenty days since they've arrived at St. Beria. The townspeople were confused why the troupe was still around when the original play was already over.

「Before this is announced, shall we do a final rehearsal with a small group of outsiders watching us? I want to confirm something with them」(Kousuke)

Kousuke, who saw the rehearsal of the "Hero Show", suggested this to further improve it.

He believed that outsiders would have a different opinion of the show compared to those who already saw it.

In Kousuke's eyes, he felt it was satisfactory already since he saw it numerous times.

「Your suggestion is to find problematic points that we may have missed, correct? ……. It makes sense, let's give it a try」(Randolph) 「Then I'll bring the children over tomorrow morning」(Kousuke)

Kousuke, who left the troupe's premise, headed towards the orphanage.

He met and explained the plan to Wei and it was decided that Wei and Viare would come along with the children the next day.

The next day at the troupe, the children who were brought over were restless as they waited impatiently for the show to start.

The "Hero Show's" story was when "Ride Hero" saves a group of movers from

a monster.【**TL: On the next episode, our hero needs to choose between vanilla and chocolate ice cream! Will he be able to choose in time before his nap time? Find out next time on Dragon Kousuke**】

When it finally started, the children's attention was rapt toward the story being unraveled. The children were "oo-ing" at arrival of "Ride Hero" on his bike, delivering his signature "Ride Kick" on the monster. The two youngest were latched onto Viare and Wei, startled by the sudden, loud explosion from the kick.

Randolph, who felt that the rehearsal was a success, had his expectations betrayed by the children's somewhat unimpressed responses.

Randolph consulted with the children to confirm the reason. The children said that the story's pacing was too abrupt since they had no idea what was going on.

Randolph and his crew knew beforehand the background story of "Ride Hero" so they were able to follow the story. But the children do not know anything about "Ride Hero" so it left them with a murky impression of the protagonist.

「Let's try giving some details about what's happening by adding a few scenes」(Randolph)

At Randolph's suggestion Kousuke gave a nod.

「Right. We ended up cutting a lot out since we already knew about the story, and this was the result」(Kousuke)「Also, we need to reduce the volume of the explosion a bit. It scared the children more than excited them. We have to properly thank the children for their help. Do you think they'll be happy if we gave them some treats as a reward?」(Randolph)「It should be enough」(Kousuke)

Thus the troupe took two more days to fix the problems and the "Hero Show" was finally ready.

With the preparations done, the members of the troupes, brimming with confidence, began advertising the show throughout the town.

Even though everyone was told it was intended for children, many adults came too for the fun of it. The adults probably came because the admission fee was extremely cheap.

Beginning with the introduction of the characters, the play began. The audiences were bewildered at the unusual story, excited at the transformation scene, in awe at the fight scenes, trembling at “Ride Hero’s” predicaments, and raised a commotion when “Ride Kick” was used.

The audience’s applause, after the play was over and the actors lined up for a final bow, was explosive.

With this, Randolph became convinced that the “Hero Show” could be used as one of his main plays.

「We’ve been under Watase-san’s care constantly these days…」(Randolph)

The “Hero Show” was performed for three more days and the Troupe decided to depart to Ricardo.

Randolph had his head lowered to Kousuke, who gave him such a wonderful story.

「I just pushed the idea onto you since I wanted to see it myself, there’s really no need for any thanks」(Kousuke) 「I feel like I cannot thank you enough for all you’ve done for us though! You didn’t just give us one scenario to enact, but multiple ones! How can we ever repay you?」(Randolph)

To not forget, the numerous scenarios were recorded and are currently heavily guarded.

Kousuke felt that the ideas he gave him weren’t that big of a deal and being thanked so much by Randolph was making him want to shrink back.

「Raise your head, the rest are calling for you. If you don’t then they won’t be

able to depart for Ricardo」(Kousuke)

Kousuke began lightly pushing Randolph towards his troupe.

Randolph lowered his head once more before heading towards his troupe.

「Let's meet again one day!」(Kousuke)

After saying that, Randolph and the troupe members all waved back and left the town.

The following day after the troupe departed, there were many children playing in the town square, imitating what they saw.

「Transform!」(Child)

Seeing the children take the transformation pose, it reminded Kousuke of his childhood.

Running around and playing with his friends, telling his parents about what he did when he got home, getting to eat a delicious home-cooked meal and falling asleep in between his parents.

The memories left him bathed in a nostalgic feel.

Not even his extraordinary power, thrilling moments he will have in this world, and the day his homesickness fades away would make him forget his life on Earth.

「I want to see my family again…」(Kousuke)

His half hopeful, half resigned muttering was unheard and scattered into the wind.【**TL: Holy, how depressing**】

ToC

15

Heyoo~

Sorry for the blank page for the moment, its fixed now ^_^

To prevent confusions, this happened sometimes during Chapter 14 and before 16.

Enjoy~

Chapter 15: “It’s not fake! An actual ruin”

「Good morning Kousuke-san」(Viare)

Since the troupe no longer required his assistance, Kousuke decided to fill the extra time he attained with more requests.

Right before he was about to leave, Viare called out to him.

Surprised by her sudden voice, Kousuke returned a greeting.

「Goo~ morn.. wait, why are you here? And who’s the person besides you?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke tilted his head at Viare and the unknown individual, not understanding why she came to the inn instead of waiting at their usual spot.

「The person besides me is someone like a brother to us. He grew up in our orphanage and is currently independent. On occasion, he returns with gifts while checking on the children」(Viare)「Mhmm, so why is he here with you? Is it possible that he wants to observe you working?」(Kousuke)「That’s not it, there’s

no need for him to worry about me that much」(Viare)

She turned her head with a “Right?” face.

「Well.. You do worry me a bit though」(???)

The man denied Viare’s words.

「First things first, it’s a pleasure to meet you. I’m called Konsato. It seems Viare and the children are being taken care of by you」(Konsato)「It’s no big deal」(Kousuke)

「Nono, I heard from the old man. You went into a dangerous territory to save the children」(Konsato)「Ah.. Well anyone else would have done the same」(Kousuke)

Hence, the two continued to exchange compliments and modesty.

「We’re going off track here so let’s end it there」(Viare)

「Hmm, that’s true. Let’s cut straight to the point then. I came here today to ask you to accept a request」(Konsato)「Request? You’re not applying it through the guild?」(Kousuke)

「I’ve already applied it through the guild, but I wanted to guarantee at least one trustworthy individual. When I consulted with the old man about this, both him and Viare recommended you」(Konsato)「You told me yesterday that you don’t have to assist the troupe anymore right? So I was hoping you could help Kon-niisan with his request」(Viare)

Viare clapped her hands together and stared at Kousuke.

「It's true I already told them everything and have more free time, but… I can't help with anything that'll take a while alright? I can't leave them on their own for too long」(Kousuke) 「The timeframe is at most twelve days. The roundtrip is around seven days and the work is around three days. The request type is an escort mission. The destination is a ruin. My profession is a scholar and I plan on visiting the ruin to study it」(Konsato)

When Kousuke heard the word "ruin", he assumed it was probably the guild giving him a training request again.

His assumption though was completely off the mark. The guild doesn't have that kind of free time to prioritize on Kousuke's development.

「Is it possibly that you want to explore a recently discovered passage in a ruin?」(Kousuke) 「If we find one then that may be the case, but fundamentally speaking you'll only be an escort. If it seems that doing so will delay the twelve day plan then I will not request that of you. This ruin is what adventurers would consider a "dried ruin" so I doubt we'll find something like that though」(Konsato) 「If that's the case then I accept」(Kousuke)

「Thank you」(Konsato)

Konsato smiled with a relieved expression. Viare did the same.

「When do we leave?」(Kousuke)

「This afternoon」(Konsato)

「So soon!?」(Kousuke)

「Sorry for the abruptness」(Konsato)

「Is there a reason for this?」(Kousuke)

「My scholarly spirit is demanding I rush over as soon as possible to study it!」(Konsato) 「…. I see…」(Kousuke)

Kousuke felt slightly exhausted hearing how overwhelming Konsato's thirst for knowledge was.

「Where should I head to once I finish preparing for the journey?」(Kousuke)

「There should be a few carriages lined up near the main gate, you can't miss it」(Konsato) 「Then I'll meet you there later」(Kousuke)

「Yes. Thank you very much for accepting my request」(Konsato)

Saying that, Konsato lowered his head before leaving the inn.

「Viare, why are you still here?」(Kousuke)

「I want to help with the preparations」(Viare)

「Ah, thank you. Which reminds me, are you coming with us as well?」(Kousuke)

Viare shook her head. She already heard the details of the request from Konsato before and concluded that it was impossible for her.

「I plan on staying behind. I won't be of much use on an escort mission. He also has someone hired to take care of the chores」(Viare) 「Is that so. So for the next twelve days are you going to just take care of the children at the orphanage?」(Kousuke) 「I plan on working at Kurosani-san's place」(Viare)

Kurosani is a painter who's on friendly terms with Viare.

While doing various tasks by following Kousuke, Viare found a work she's exceptionally good at.

It's related to colors.

When Kurosani was depressed due to a slump was when Viare and Kousuke delivered some paint to her. Kurosani asked the two of them about their

impression of her current work and Viare's answer motivated and reinvigorated her painter's spirit. Ever since then, Kurosani would invite Viare for more consultations, thus allowing Viare to further develop her strong artistic sense.

The work Viare mentioned was probably to increase the variety of colors for Kurosani-san to use.

Finished with the preparations, the two left the inn. The preparation was light since all they did was re-organize his current luggage slightly. The two were leisurely chatting while prepping earlier since they had plenty of time.

The two didn't immediately head to the gathering spot. Instead, they purchased some travel rations and had an early lunch before heading to the troupe. Viare separated right after the lunch.

He explained to the troupe that he will be gone on a request for some time. After, he headed to where Konsato was waiting.

「Hello」(Kousuke)

Seeing Konsato seated on the coachman's seat of the carriage, Kousuke greeted him.

「Oh? You've arrived already?」(Konsato)

「Already? I thought the departure time was this afternoon」(Kousuke)

Konsato slapped his forehead with an apologetic expression and lowered his head.

「The fault lies in my explanation, I'm terribly sorry. The plan was to depart after lunch. So the hired adventurers were told to come after they finished lunch. The rest of my crew aren't finished eating either. It'll be at least an hour

before we depart」(Konsato)「One hour huh… It's a long wait.. And it's not enough time to wander around the town… Maybe I'll just relax until then. Oh yea! Konsato-san, would you happen to know the kinds of monsters we may encounter? If you do, please let me know」(Kousuke)「It's roughly the same as the monsters around here. Lutz Monkeys and Killing Dogs, additionally Dive Hoppers and Needle Bushes as well」(Konsato)「I'm not familiar with the last two, could you tell me more about them?」(Kousuke)

「Of course」(Konsato)

Dive Hoppers are giant grasshopper monsters, roughly the size of a rabbit. They rarely travel alone and are commonly seen in groups of 5-10. Their head is the hardest part of their body and they use it to attack by jumping high and using the force of the fall to crash into their targets.

There was a case where a mercenary company was devastated by a group of around 100 Dive Hoppers in the past. Such a record was left behind.

Needle Bushes are bush shaped monsters that camouflages in with other greeneries. They stay still until a prey comes into range and stabs out cogon grass-like needles to impale their preys.

【TL: Imperata cylindrica, also known as blady grass, cogon grass, kunai grass or Japanese bloodgrass】

The area around this monster tends to have slightly withered grasses so it's not difficult to spot despite it blending in well with the other bushes.

In addition to the monsters' detail, Kousuke was also told about some of the hazardous zones along the way. A brief summary of the hired adventurers were provided as well.

While the two were talking, the people who were having lunch arrived and the preparation for departure began.

「Ah, the other adventurers have arrived. You should go introduce yourself,

let’s continue this later alright?」(Konsato)

The hour conversation they had caused the two’s tone to become more informal toward each other.

「Okay, I’ll go do that」(Kousuke)

He gathered his luggage and headed towards the adventurers.

The total amount of adventurers amounted to five, including Kousuke. These five must protect Konsato and his crew of eight.

According to Konsato, the groups are set up as a three’s and two singles. The three-man group has two men and one woman. The group of three had a veteran while the younger two looked somewhat inexperienced. The solo applicant looked around 14 and had the appearance of a complete greenhorn.

「Hello. We’ll be working together, my name is Watase Kousuke」(Kousuke)

The veteran from the group of three responded to hearing Kousuke’s name.

「Are you THE Watase I’ve heard so much about these days? I heard you were young, but I’ve always assumed you’d be over 20」(???) 「Despite how I look, I’m almost 18 you know」(Kousuke)

Kousuke took the initiative, assuming he was being looked down upon.【**TL: His age, not his ability**】

「Oh, I see, you look a bit younger though」(???)

「So I’ve been told…」(Kousuke)

「You have a baby face so I guess that’s why」(???)【**TL: WHO’S A GOOD**

BABY!! YOU ARE KOU-CHAN!】

Kousuke is not much of a baby face. As a Japanese, his face is within normal measures. This world views his face in a similar way Westerners would view his childish face.

「I'm Tony. I babysit these two, sort of. This boy's Lyle, the gal's Iris」(Tony)**【TL: HEY TONY! I like the things you dooo~】**

Tony introduced the two while pointing at them.

Iris didn't show much expression and lowered her head while Lyle lowered his head with a discontent look hearing that he's being "babysat" by Tony.

「Mhmm, and the other one isn't part of my group, but since he looks like a greenhorn I figured I'll help him out a bit while on this request. He's called Horton」(Tony)

The introduced Horton looked nervous and stiffly lowered his head.

「Please take care of me」(Horton)

Kousuke turned towards the four and lowered his head once more.

「Small question, you mind?」(Tony)

「Go ahead」(Kousuke)

「When they were explaining the details of the request you weren't around. Why?」(Tony)「Explanation? When was this?」(Kousuke)

「Two days ago」(Tony)

「Then I definitely couldn't be there. I was hired this morning. An acquaintance and the scholar there directly requested for my participation this morning」(Kousuke)「This morning… I'm surprised you accepted. Wasn't it too sudden?」(Tony)

Hearing this outrageous situation, not only Tony but the other three were shocked as well.

「The scholar is something like a brother to my acquaintance so it was difficult to refuse. And I wasn't taking any request at that time either」(Kousuke)「I see. The client must have wanted a few more adventurers. As for me, I always welcome more helping hands」(Tony)「I've never done an escort job before so I have no idea what to do」(Kousuke)

「Really? I heard you've been banging out requests left and right though」(Tony)

Despite hearing such rumors, truths and lies were mixed in, making it difficult to tell what's actually true.

「They were mostly odd job requests. Almost all of it could be done without leaving town. Since I'm new to this I'll move according to your orders. I have a ridiculous amount of strength and endurance so please don't hold back since Tony-san seems to have some experience with escort jobs. It would go a lot smoother with someone experienced in charge right?」(Kousuke)「That would help a lot. I won't ask for anything impossible, but as you are it would have definitely been problematic if you moved on your own. Lyle, you too, you better follow orders when there's an emergency」(Tony)「I know that already!」(Lyle)

He answered while turning his head away angrily.

Kousuke wondered if they have a bad relationship with each other and asked,

but Tony shook his head.

According to Tony, this request was something Lyle and Iris were supposed to take together. But the others were worried and made Tony come along as a precaution.

Lyle truly disliked that. He felt like he was being cheated since he was convinced that he was a full-fledged adventurer already.

Iris had mixed feelings about this. Relieved that Tony came, but also upset at not being completely trusted.

「I believe having someone reliable nearby is a wonderful thing though」(Kousuke)

Lyle heard Kousuke's thoughts from the side and glared at him.

「Well, that person may have knowledge that you don't have that's helpful right? Don't forget techniques and skills too that might be lifesaving」(Kousuke)
「Th..That's true, but….」(Lyle)

「You have someone useful besides you, just think of it as being lucky」(Kousuke)

Tony gave a bitter smile hearing Kousuke's opinion of him.

「I've done escort jobs before so just the two of us is enough!」(Lyle)

Lyle yelled and walked away. Iris lowered her head towards Kousuke to apologize and ran to Lyle to calm him down.

Since Lyle wasn't unmotivated about this request, everyone decided to drop this subject for the mean time. He didn't want to be a burden on the team, he's

a pro too after all.

When the preparation to depart concluded, one of the scholars called out to everyone.

「The formation will be myself and Horton as the vanguards and the carriages in the center. Lyle and Iris will get the sides. Watase-san, please guard the rear. Any objections?」(Tony)

Tony explained the formation to the group. No one had any objections.

「If you see anything unusual, call out to me. When you do, keep your voice down though. I'll pass the message to Horton too, just make sure you let me know whatever it might be. The only exception would be if a monster is headed our way, just yell then」(Tony)

The four nodded and headed to their respective positions.

And thus, the group departed.

The journey was relatively smooth. The random monster encounters were expected so it didn't delay the plan.

The monsters that did appear were all the ones that were previously mentioned.

Since Tony and Kousuke knew that Dive Hoppers may appear, they were vigilant toward the sky. When they did appear, the group was able to avoid a surprise attack.

The battles they had on their way to the ruin gave each other a good idea of the each other's capabilities.

Except for Kousuke who's never using his full power. Despite that though, Lyle would glance at Kousuke enviously since he was nowhere as strong as Kousuke.

The only ones that had no trouble during the fights were Kousuke and Tony. Those two were never troubled by the fights and would kill each monster with

one swing.

Lyle and Iris were fine as long as they held control over the fight.

Lyle was a close-quarter swordsman while Iris was a mid to long range archer. The two grouped together often so they understood each other's fighting style and would smoothly follow through.

For Horton's case, it could be said that he did his best despite it being his first time. He stumbled around here and there, but everyone expected that. He was improving slowly with Tony giving him advices.

Horton used a sword while Tony used a spear, a long knife and a few magic spells.

Tony's mana capacity was on the lower end so all of his spells had a relatively mild firepower. The spells he would use would usually restrain or break the opponent's balance.

「Seems we'll reach the ruin by tomorrow」(Tony)

「Seems so. I'm just glad there weren't any real issues so far」(Kousuke)

「I agree」(Tony)

Kousuke and Tony were chatting while standing guard for the evening. Since everyone else was asleep they were whispering.

Originally, Horton was supposed to stand guard as well, but doing an escort job he was unfamiliar with left him physically and mentally drained. At the urgings of Kousuke and Tony, he hasn't done any night watches since yesterday.

「The fact that you're strong is one of the reasons for the safe travel. It allowed me to watch over Horton more, thanks. You're already that strong at such a young age, I'm sure it's possible you'll become world famous in no time」(Tony)
「Not really interested in that though」(Kousuke)

「If you're a man you should at least do one big thing, don't you want to

become famous?」(Tony)「I've thought of that before, but…」(Kousuke)

When he was back on Earth he has thought of doing something big and becoming famous. That was mostly a delusion with no clear vision though.

But here, he coincidently attained something amazing and has the ability to become extremely famous.

Thinking of that actually happening, it made him incredibly nervous. It wouldn't be fame through his efforts so he would feel guilty. It's to the point that he has no pride in his current strength. For as long as he stays stuck with this mindset, he will most likely continue living on a peaceful lifestyle.

Kousuke has no complaints about living peacefully either.

「For now, I'll just go with the flow」(Kousuke)

「Quite the peaceful one huh. I don't see anything wrong with being a bit more ambitious. Like Lyle」(Tony)「About that, it's just a difference in preference. Let's leave it at that」(Kousuke)

「I guess I'll just go with that then」(Tony)

「Since we have some time, mind teaching me some magic? Like that blast of wind, looked very useful」(Kousuke)

During one of their fights, Tony used a strong blast of wind to change the trajectory of a Dive Hopper's attack. With just that, the Dive Hopper's attack became useless.

A magic that could disable an opponent without harming them, it was ideal and Kousuke wanted to learn it.

「Sure. I also want to learn some of the magic spells that you know. What can you use so far?」(Tony)「Flight magic, teleportation magic, a penetrating beam magic, barrier magic, and healing magic. The others I know are mostly for day-to-day conveniences」(Kousuke)**【TL: And don't forget, MAGICAL PURURIN YUI-**

TAN TRANSFORMATION magic】

「Is your magical aptitude very high?」(Tony)

Tony had an astonished face hearing the list of magic Kousuke could use.

Not just ordinary people, but fledgling and third rate adventurers would not be able to use some of the magic Kousuke could use, being astonished was a given.

「My magical aptitude is definitely not ordinary」(Kousuke)

「You could already do so much.. I still think you should aim to become famous. Just why are you doing odd-job requests only?」(Tony)「I get asked that question a lot. I always answer that with “Safety is number one”. I don’t have to do anything dangerous to survive anyways」(Kousuke)

It’s something Kousuke noticed a bit too. He would unconsciously try to avoid any situation that would possibly threaten his life. He doesn’t understand why he’s like that, but he has no intention of stifling it. He felt that it’s for the best.

「Then why become an adventurer? Wouldn’t taking up a craft and working be a better idea?」(Tony)「St. Beria isn’t my permanent resident」(Kousuke)

「I see, it wouldn’t make sense to do that if you’re constantly traveling. Still, becoming a traveling merchant or something similar would have worked though」(Tony)「Well, the odd-job requests was the easiest thing to do for me. Even if you tell me I could become a merchant I wouldn’t be able to make heads or tails out of that profession」(Kousuke)「With your abilities, making a living while travelling should be no problem, just hunt some stuff and sell the meat. There are some birds and deer that might be rejected in trades, but rare species like the bird “Yewel” could be sold at a high price. When I had no money I did that. There are some requests to hunt for them too. I’m sure the butchers would be happy if they can refill their stocks from time to time」(Tony)

The butchers Kousuke knew never gave him similar personal requests because they didn’t know that he could do it. If they knew he was this strong and

dextrous they wouldn’t have hesitated to ask.

「I see, so there were requests like that around. I’ve been too focused on doing requests that I could do without leaving town so I never noticed」(Kousuke)

The night watch ended as the two discussed other similar jobs and requests that could be done.

The two never realized that Lyle was listening to a portion of their conversation.

The next day, the group arrived at the ruin in the afternoon. Weeds blanketed the entire area and the buildings looked decayed. The place was very quiet, no traces of human beings could be found.

This place was abandoned a hundred years ago. It was abandoned because the drinking water became contaminated and caused a widespread disease. It was deemed hospitable again during an investigation ten years ago, but it remained abandoned since no one wanted to live in a ruin. The country’s knights would patrol nearby on occasion so the possibility of this place becoming a bandit’s nest was zero. If anyone could be found staying inside, it would be travelers using the buildings as temporary shelters for a night.

Similar to the travelers, Kousuke’s group chose a random building to become their base.

While the others were setting up the base, Kousuke and Konsato were talking with each other.

「The investigation begins tomorrow?」(Kousuke)

「I plan on taking a quick look soon, but we’ll begin the full investigation tomorrow」(Konsato) 「Will an escort be necessary inside the ruin?」(Kousuke)

「Yes. We probably won’t see any people, but there’s a possibility that monsters have snuck inside so I’ll have you come with me tomorrow」(Konsato) 「I heard on our way here that this place was abandoned a hundred years ago,

but as a ruin it's quite young isn't it? Will the investigation of this place prove useful?」(Kousuke)「It may have been only a hundred years since it was abandoned, but this town's history is only about three hundred years old. so it's a bit hasty to call it a young ruin」(Konsato)「Ah.. is that so. I completely forgot about this town's history」(Kousuke)

The group finished with setting up the base and dropped off their luggage. Before unpacking, they headed toward an abandoned temple. There's a chance a monster may appear so Kousuke, Lyle, and Iris accompanied the scholars. The other two stood guard near the base.

This temple wasn't maintained at all. It looked musty and rundown everywhere. It was smaller than the "practice" temple Kousuke explored with Borudosu.

「If it's this small then the investigation should be fast right?」(Iris)**【TL: WOA, she spoke!】**

To Iris's word, Konsato rebuked.

「This place's underground area is much larger than this. Because of that fact, the investigation may not necessarily finish quickly. I'll lead you to the entrance down」(Konsato)

With the adventurers surrounding them, the scholars headed to the stairs.

After confirming the area, they continued to explore the temple. The scholars were pointing at various locations while chatting. The adventurers ignored them and stayed vigilant of the surrounding.

After making a round, the group returned back to the base.

The next day is when the actual investigation began.

Although, Kousuke and Horton were on guard duty near the base so he

actually didn’t go into the lower levels.

「What was it like down there?」(Kousuke)

Before heading down himself, Kousuke asked Tony who went in yesterday.

「This might be obvious but it’s dark, visibility is low, and the direction of the air is difficult to discern. Something like that. Also, there were a few monsters in there. I could feel their presence, but they never appeared. They’re probably just cowardly monsters」(Tony)「So nothing should happen as long as I stay alert?」(Horton)

「That’s about right. We were like that yesterday and nothing happened. Kousuke and I will be coming too so no need to get so nervous」(Tony)

Tony stated while patting Horton’s shoulder.

「Wa.. Wahii!」(Horton)**【TL: A scream…?】**

Kousuke and Tony laughed lightly seeing how stiff Horton was.

As they descended, Kousuke, with permission, casted《Light》to brighten up the immediate area. Ten meter radius brightened up, as if bathed in sunlight. Seeing how much light was being given off, Tony asked if Kousuke will be alright with using so much mana.

「Will you be fine using so much mana?」(Tony)

「I’ll be fine. I haven’t even used 10% of my mana」(Kousuke)

「You make me envious. If I tried the same I’ll end up using at least 30%」(Tony)

「This magic is supposed to be mana efficient right?」(Kousuke)

「I’m terrible with mana control so I end up using more than necessary」(Tony)

「I see. It's like the saying "Even dust, if piled, can become a mountain"」(Kousuke)【**TL: Japanese proverb – Chiri mo tsumoreba yama to naru. "Small things add up" would be the English equivalent**】

「Those two are about to move forward」(Horton)

While Kousuke and Tony were talking, Horton spoke up.

「Ah, sorry」(Kousuke)

「Thank you for letting us know」(Tony)

「It's nothing」(Horton)

Tony and Horton took the vanguard and Kousuke was the rearguard. Today, the group once again began their investigation.

Their destination was a large room. It looked like it was used as a wareroom in the past. The room was littered with broken goods everywhere.

The broken goods looked like trash to Kousuke, Tony and Horton, but the scholars saw differently. To them, every piece was of great historical importance. The scholars immediately began their work and started to examine each goods, piece by piece.

「I'll stand guard here, think the two of you could patrol the perimeter? There might be some monsters hidden in some places」(Tony)「Understood」(Kousuke)

「Ro.. Roger that!」(Horton)

The still nervous Horton and Kousuke left the large room together and entered the hallway.

They began inspecting the other rooms. Since they had little understanding about the value of the remains, they were cautious not to wantonly touch

anything.

In the fifth room they inspected, Kousuke spotted a pitfall trap and showed Horton its location. The two avoided the area around the pitfall.

But Horton tripped on a heavy table and fell into the pitfall. He screamed loudly as he fell.

「Are you alright!?」(Kousuke)

「I think I broke my arm」(Horton)**【TL: MY ARMS!!!!】**

He sounded as if he was enduring a lot of pain. Despite that, he responded strongly.

Kousuke jumped down the hole as well.

Horton, who was covered in cold sweat, was leaning against the wall while grabbing the upper portion of his injured arm.

「I'm going to check the arm now okay?」(Kousuke)

「Yes」(Horton)

Horton gritted his teeth as he bore the pain.

The arm was swollen and burning up.

Kousuke immediately understood its condition.

「It's definitely broken. No worries though, it can be fixed immediately」(Kousuke)

「Is that the truth!?」(Horton)

Seeing Kousuke immediately nodding, Horton's distorted expression loosened

a bit.

Kousuke began treating Horton's arm using the knowledge Horun imparted to him.

To prevent the bones from healing improperly, it had to be straightened. Only issue was an immense pain would follow. Horton bit down on a thick cloth and gritted his teeth once more.

「I'm starting」(Kousuke)

Horton shut his eyes tightly and nodded.

The moment Kousuke pulled the arm, Horton gave out a loud, muffled scream.

Hearing that, Kousuke grimaced. Using his spare hand he palpated the broken arm to confirm that the bones were set straight and then used magic to begin healing it.

After the treatment finished he exhaled loudly.

「It's over now」(Kousuke)

「Tha..nk..yo..u..」(Horton)

「You'll feel some pain for a bit longer. Just in case, please don't move that arm for today. It won't break again, but the pain might become worse」(Kousuke)

He shouldered the nodding Horton's good arm and casted flight magic to leave the pit together.

Since the two finished with their patrol they headed back to Tony. After explaining about the Horton's injury, they took him back to the base to rest up.

The rest of the day was without incident and the investigation proceeded on time.

The following day was similarly eventless, except for Lyle being restless. Kousuke and Tony were a bit confused at Lyle's behavior but they didn't dig

deeper. Regardless, the reason was unraveled the next morning. When the group finished breakfast, no one knew where Lyle and Horton were.

「Something's wrong」(Kousuke)

「Where could those two have gone? We're preparing to leave soon too… And they didn't eat breakfast either」(Kousuke)「Iris, have you seen either of them?」(Tony)

Not expecting her to know, Tony asked anyways.

「Er.. that.. umm」(Iris)

She responded oddly, obviously knowing the answer.

If those two were just wandering around then she wouldn't be acting like this.

Getting a bad feeling, Tony questioned further.

It seemed Iris was told to keep quiet about it, but she obediently answered.

「The truth is.. The two went into the hidden room-like place inside the temple last night….」(Iris)「Huh? I never heard anything about a hidden room」(Tony)

The person who found it was Horton. He found signs of it when he fell down the pitfall trap.

When he leaned heavily onto the wall it produced an echo that indicated he was most likely leaning on a hollow wall.

Kousuke, at the time, never touched the wall so he never knew.

「I'm terribly sorry! Lyle told me to stay quiet about this! He told me he would

come back after he quickly takes a look!」(Iris)「He volunteered for the night watch last night for this I see」(Tony)

Tony was exasperated and sighed heavily.

「That IDIOT, doing things on his own!」(Tony)

The three explained the situation to the scholars.

They apologized for Lyle's rambunctious behavior and requested permission to search for him.

「There's no helping it. Please, don't mind us and search for him」(Konsato)

「Thank you very much! I'll make those two apologize as well when I drag them back! Scold them and reduce their reward as you see fit!」(Tony)

Tony lowered his head numerous times, showing his gratitude for the permission.

「Kousuke, would you accompany me?」(Tony)

「Sure」(Kousuke)

「What about me?」(Iris)

「Iris, you guard the base. Leaving the scholars alone would be an issue. Plus, it's difficult to use a bow in those cramped halls. It's been safe around the base these days, but don't drop your guard alright?」(Tony)「I understand」(Iris)

With a motivated expression Iris nodded.

「Alright, let's head down」(Tony)

「Please bring those two back」(Iris)

After seeing the two disappear into the temple, Iris climbed up onto a roof near the base to begin her watch.

With Kousuke leading, the two arrived at the pitfall containing the hidden room.

「It's here. Looks like a tunnel was opened. There's no mistake, the two went in here」(Kousuke) 「Let's go」(Tony)

The two jumped into the pitfall and entered the tunnel.

The two whispered to each other as they traveled through the tunnel.

「That hole earlier, it's definitely not a pitfall trap」(Tony)

「Really?」(Kousuke)

「Mhmm, there weren't other traps around right? Just one trap like that seems peculiar. It was probably there just to cover up the hole. It most likely got old with time and ended up becoming a pitfall. This tunnel was probably left undiscovered because who would intentionally fall into such an obvious trap right?」(Tony) 「I guess that sounds about right. Ah, look, there's an arrow on the floor」(Kousuke)

There was an arrow lying on the floor before them. When they focused more on their surroundings they noticed that there were quite a few scattered about. There were also spots on the floor that looked sunken as well. These clues pointed out that a trap was triggered here.

The two picked up an arrow.

「There’s blood on this. Seems like those two were injured」(Kousuke)

「….It’s dried and the efficacy of it dropped drastically, but there’s poison on the tip as well」(Tony)

Tony scrapped off a dried, powdery substance from the arrowhead and examined it.

「Lyle can handle small injuries, but if it’s poison.. He has nothing against them. We should hurry and regroup with them」(Tony)

Kousuke nodded and the two hurried forward.

Suddenly, the two’s feet stopped. There was a fork in the tunnel up ahead.

They examined the floor, trying to find footprints to determine the correct direction.

「The right path seems to have more footprints」(Kousuke)

「Seems like it, most likely it’s a dead end so they had to turn back, creating more footprints」(Tony) 「So, left it is then」(Kousuke)

As the two travelled down the left path, they spotted a corpse of a monster.

It looked like a gigantic earthworm, Tony told Kousuke it’s a relatively weak monster.

Normally, earthworms are great for the field, but these monsters would devour the field and attack people. Its existence was pure harm. As long as the two are careful of an underground attack they won’t have any trouble.

「If these things are here.. It must mean that there’s a hole in the temple’s wall」(Tony)

The building’s walls and floors were made with stone and these monsters lack

the strength to tear through them.

「Do you think the rest of the monsters that are lurking in here are similar?」(Kousuke)「They probably entered in a similar way. There might even be abandoned man-made monsters in here, if so, they are definitely starving for mana」(Tony)「Well.. There's no one around to keep them fed」(Kousuke)

The two proceeded deeper while disarming traps that Lyle and Horton avoided and defeating monsters that they couldn't defeat. This way, when they escape together no hindrance would appear.

In addition, the two saw signs of break-ins here and there and noticed various ornaments and decorations, that could be seen as valuable, were broken recently. It truly showed how inexperienced Lyle and Horton were.

When Tony saw all of this he couldn't consider Lyle as a full-fledged adventurer just yet.

「That thing before surprised me」(Kousuke)

「Ending it with just "being surprised" is more astounding though…」(Tony)

Kousuke commented while laughing, but Tony could only smile dryly.

Just a while ago, the two fought against a "Hard-shelled worm". It rolled its body up and charged at the two like a steel ball. The attack that resembled a pillbug was something Kousuke expected, but it charged at an incredible speed and he was unable to avoid it in time and got smashed into a wall.

Tony became worried Kousuke got a heavy injury since he didn't wear any heavy armor, but seeing him get up without any problems at all made him feel that his worries were unfounded.

「Huh?」(Kousuke)

「What's wrong? Did you get injured somewhere?」(Tony)

Hearing Kousuke's doubtful voice, Tony inquired.

「I heard a sound」(Kousuke)

「Really? I can't hear anything」(Tony)

「Mm…. I can definitely hear it」(Kousuke)

When he listened carefully, he knew he definitely did not mishear anything.

Kousuke heard the sound of something very heavy moving.

「Which direction?」(Tony)

「Follow me」(Kousuke)

The two ran with Kousuke leading. They ignored the monsters and traps along the way. Five minutes later, Tony started to hear the heavy sounds as well.

「Something is making that sound on a fixed interval. It's most likely extremely heavy」(Tony) 「It might be a large monster chasing after Lyle and Horton」(Kousuke)

「That's a possibility. Let's hurry.」(Tony)

Kousuke nodded and the two hurried their pace.

Three minutes later, they entered into the upper levels of a spacious room. The drop down was about eight meters.

Down below, Lyle and Horton could be seen being chased by a four meter tall sculpture. That sculpture didn't look like a brute, instead it reminded Kousuke of

a king, with both intelligence and grace flowing from it.

「They seem sluggish, the poison probably circulated throughout their body already」(Tony)「Enough talk, we have to save them!」(Kousuke)

「Just wait a moment. I want to avoid dropping in there without a plan and ending up in the same situation」(Tony)

Tony stopped Kousuke from jumping down.

「We just need to beat that thing right?」(Kousuke)

「….. You make it sound easy, but that's unlikely. At least I don't have the confidence to beat that thing」(Tony)「I feel like I could do it though」(Kousuke)

「You sure?」(Tony)

「I know that I don't feel like I could lose」(Kousuke)

Hearing how indifferently Kousuke responded, Tony couldn't tell if he was just reckless or heroic. The sudden scream from Lyle and Horton pushed Tony to make a decision.

「… Alright! I'll rely on you to distract that thing. No need to push yourself to beat it. I'll drop a rope down from here and bring those two over. Once I got them to safety, I'll yell, until then please endure!」(Tony)「I can use flight magic so I could save them by myself you know?」(Kousuke)

「….That's right.. You told me you could use it. Alright, I'll leave it to you then」(Tony)「Roger that!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke, using his magic, tried to fly over to where Lyle and Horton are.

But suddenly, he fell to the floor. The magic stopped working abruptly.

「Eh?」(Kousuke)

「Wha?」(Tony)

Kousuke couldn't understand what was going on and Tony's face twisted thinking "I thought he could use flight magic!".

Hearing a loud thud from Kousuke's fall, Tony immediately dashed to the edge to look down.

「ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?」(Tony)

「I'm fine, scared me though!」(Kousuke)

Seeing Kousuke dust off his clothes and wave back energetically, Tony patted his chest in relief.

「Let's go with your previous plan alright!」(Kousuke)

Without waiting for Tony's response, Kousuke dashed toward the sculpture.

In response, Tony stabbed the iron stake into the ground, tied a rope to it and lowered it down. He began climbing down while placing iron stakes along the wall to provide a foothold.

Satisfied with the preparations, Tony glanced at the slow moving sculpture chasing Kousuke before dashing to Lyle and Horton.

「Good, he's getting the two. It'll probably take a bit longer though」(Kousuke)

While avoiding the incoming punches and kicks, Kousuke glanced slightly toward Tony.

Kousuke had a lot of room to be complacent. The sculpture didn't use any unusual attacks and would only wildly punch and kick. The speed of its attacks weren't exceptionally fast. It couldn't be called slow, but by observing its movements carefully, it's not a difficult thing to do.

「I could just keep dodging its attack, but I really want to see just how far I could go against this statue」(Kousuke)

Unlike his encounter with the Violent Barbs that required him to protect someone constantly, Kousuke didn't want to give up this opportunity where he could fight at his own pace so he stood his ground and took up a fighting stance.

「First, let's compare our strength! COME AT ME!」(Kousuke)

He raised the arm not holding his sword and received the giant sculpture's punch.

The weight of the punch caused him to slide across the ground a bit, but when he stood his ground he came to a complete stop. Kousuke was only pushed back slightly, no injuries could be found.

「Not much I can do about the size difference but I didn't have to use my full power to stop it. Seems like my strength won't lose out against this statue」(Kousuke)

Kousuke stopped pushing back with his arm. The sculpture once again raised its arm to strike. Kousuke dodged the incoming punch and kicked the fist.

The strength of the kick was beyond the sculpture's control and its own fist flew into its chest. The impact of the fist caused cracks to appear on its hand and chest. The sculpture had no sense of pain so it attacked Kousuke once more without pause with the cracked hand. With just dodging, the cracks grew and the fist was quickly becoming useless.

「Next, let's see how well I can move!」(Kousuke)

Kousuke swiftly closed in on the sculpture, jumping from its leg to its arm and finally encroaching onto its shoulder.

Kousuke dodged the swatting hands by a paper thin margin by moving around the head and shoulders.

「Even with unstable footing, my mobility is pretty good」(Kousuke)

He leapt off the shoulder, doing a spin in the air before landing on the ground.
【TL: Of course Kou-chan.. you just had to spin..】

「No issues with my stamina either」(Kousuke)

Just as stated, no signs of shortness of breath could be seen on him.

Kousuke stared at the sculpture with composure as the cracked fist flew toward him.

In response, Kousuke gripped a fist and threw a punch at the giant, cracked fist.

The large fist and the small fist collided and not even a second passed as the sculpture's fist scattered.

Dodging through the flying rubbles, Kousuke charged at the sculpture and with both hands swung his sword.

Aimed at the upper shin, the impact let out an unpleasant sound as sparks scattered about. Regardless, the sword slashed through completely and almost dismembered the leg.

The sculpture attempted to attack once more and the weight placed on the leg caused it to break off.

Losing its balance the sculpture collapsed to the floor. It attempted to stand but ended up stumbling back to the floor.

「I wonder if I break the head it'll stop moving?」(Kousuke)

Just because the sculpture is shaped after a human, its weakness is probably different, but since Kousuke had no way to find out he struck and decapitated the sculpture.

It seemed whatever was controlling the sculpture was in the head and its loss of it caused the sculpture to stop completely.

In the future, the scholars find out that the sculpture was moving by absorbing the nearby mana through its head. The sculpture was absorbing the mana from Kousuke and the others' use of magic. This was the reason why magic would fail in this room.

Konsato tried to find Kousuke to inform him about this, but by then Kousuke was already long gone. In the end, Kousuke finds out about why his magic failed many months later instead.

「Oh…」(Kousuke)

Kousuke looked at his sword and raised his voice.

The edge of the blade that hit the sculpture was chipped.【**TL: AGAIN KOU-CHAN!?**】

「I guess I have to get this repaired again」(Kousuke)

He sheathed his sword while sighing, knowing Clarice's judgment awaited him. He soon headed towards the other three.

He ignored the rope and jumped up using the iron stake footholds on the wall.

「How are the two's condition?」(Kousuke)

「Ah..Uhh.. I treated their wounds. They were poisoned with something that slightly paralyzed and drained their stamina so they'll be fine even if we leave it. How are you doing though? Since.. you were going pretty wild down there」(Tony)「I…. guess nothing's wrong with me」(Kousuke)

After he confirmed that there are no injuries on himself he answered.

「This is just completely out of the norm… So the rumors of you defeating a Violent Barb was true」(Tony)

Tony's face was contorted, he was simple too shocked.

Unlike Tony, Horton's face was darkening with fear. The sculpture that almost ended his life was easily beaten by Kousuke and that planted a strong fear of Kousuke in Horton.

Lyle's face was obviously expressing jealousy and envy. He wanted to be as strong as him since the two's difference in strength was simply too big.

This envy was something Tony understood too. During his youth, he felt that his potential was endless and whenever he met anyone stronger than him he held jealousy and envy toward them.

Seeing how Lyle was, Tony was recalling his experiences and was bathing in nostalgia.

「Umm, sorry if I'm interrupting something memorable you're recalling, but should we rest first or immediately set out?」(Kousuke)

Despite feeling a bit pained by Horton's gaze, Kousuke asked. It was a shock to him since he's never been feared like this before. Lyle's jealous gaze was easier to deal with.

「That's true, let's rest up first. You and I might be fine, but these two are definitely tired」(Tony)

Kousuke nodded, sat down, and began digging through his bag. Finding what he wanted, he handed the items over to Lyle and Horton.

「It's an antidote I got from an acquaintance. I'm not sure how effective it would be, but drink it just in case」(Kousuke)

It was something Horun gave him. Those antidotes were made by Horun who's highly competent in medicine so there's no possible way that they're ineffective.

Five minutes after the two drank it, they felt the numbing sensation slowly fade away. After twenty minutes, they were able to move normally again.

「Those two are able to move normally again so let's head back up」(Kousuke)

「Sounds good」(Tony)

Hearing Tony say "Yokkorasho" as he stood up, Kousuke threw a low blow comment "You sound like an old man". **【TL: Yokkorasho is along the line of "Up I go" and it implies that the person has some difficulties standing up on their own, like an elderly】**

「….. Like I'll go back without results!」(Lyle)

「Wh.. WHAT!?」(Kousuke)

At Lyle's sudden outburst Kousuke was surprised.

「I understand what you mean, but you charged in recklessly and made a mess. I have no intention of letting you continue that you know?」(Tony) 「But!」(Lyle)

【TL: Butt.. teehee】

「Hmm.. Alright, then you can search past that door, but that's all」(Tony)

Tony pointed at a door near the pedestal the sculpture was most likely originally on.

「If you can't accept this compromise then I'll drag your unconscious body out instead. Even if it means I have to break a bone or two to do so」(Tony)「…. I got it..」(Lyle)

Lyle reluctantly nodded and headed to the door. In the past, he was knocked unconscious by Tony before so he knew it wasn't a bluff.

While Tony, Lyle and Horton were scaling down the wall with the rope, Kousuke jumped down and gracefully landed.**【TL: Show off…】**

Lyle's jealously grew more seeing this.

After this job, Lyle never worked with Kousuke ever again. But due to this experience he had, it would lead to him to developing and accomplishing many great things in the future.

「I don't think there are any traps. What do you think Kousuke?」(Tony)

「Hmm…. I feel that something's a little off?」(Kousuke)

「I see, mind checking it out just in case? Horton, observe Kousuke carefully, it'll help out when you search for traps on your own. Lyle, you too. I saw quite a few traps that were triggered by you two on the way here. If you can't handle and disarm even those then don't think yourself as a full-fledged adventurer」(Tony)

While Lyle and Horton observed, Kousuke began probing for traps. He wasn't able to figure out what would come out if the trap sprung, but he figured out how to work around it and disarmed it successfully.

The door opened and Tony examined the dismantled trap and concluded that it was set to release smoke. The compound was mixed with some sort of chemical that would cause those that inhaled it to see hallucinations.

The reason why they found out was because Horton sneezed when they were examining the chemical and scattered it, resulting in Lyle and Horton inhaling it.

The two were giggling and smiling like idiots, it seemed the hallucination they saw was very pleasant.

While those two were dreaming pleasantly, Kousuke and Tony investigated the room.

「Oi, snap out of it already」(Tony)

Finished with investigating the room, Tony was smacking Lyle and Horton awake.

「Huh? Where's Iris?」(Lyle)

「Where's Iris-san?」(Horton)

The hallucination the two saw was obviously related to Iris.**【TL: Triangle relationship~?】**

「Iris is standing guard near the base. She wasn't here since the beginning. The two of you were just hallucinating」(Tony)

Hearing that they were hallucinating, the two hung their heads down in embarrassment.

「Well… I don't know what you two saw, but wipe it from your minds. And about the results of our investigation of the room…」(Tony)

Hearing that, Lyle stood up immediately.

「Was there something?!」(Lyle)

「Jewelries, decorated armors, and some old currencies」(Tony)

「That's amazing! Doesn't that mean we're rich!?」(Horton)

Hearing the results of the investigation, Horton completely recovered.

「Well, the things we found belong to the country now. None of this will go into our pocket you know. This area still belongs to the country's jurisdiction. If we found those in an undiscovered ruin then it would have belonged to us」(Tony)
「That… Is that the case?」(Horton)

The excitement in Horton visibly faded.

「Lyle told me that if we found any treasures it would be ours though…」(Horton)

「Well, I thought that would be the case」(Lyle)

When Lyle heard that a hidden passage existed, he coaxed the information out of Horton by telling him of the possible riches they could attain if Horton would guide him to the place.

「Lyle, didn't you study enough? I clearly remember teaching you about this though」(Tony) 「I forgot about it. Either way, mind showing me the stuff you found? Just looking at it won't hurt right?」(Lyle) 「It's over here. Don't touch anything. The placement of these things might be important for the scholars' research」(Tony)

The two were lead into the room and saw the jewelries and other treasures. Their faces were tinged with a sense of disappointment.

They were disappointed that the amount of treasures was smaller than they expected.

If the treasures here were converted into money then it would allow a person to live comfortably for only about three years. If the other valuables they saw on the way here were added then it would only increase that amount by two years.

「Your faces tell me you were expecting to see a lot more huh?」(Tony)

「This place had that kind of gatekeeper, this just doesn't make sense!」(Lyle)

「That's right! We almost died!」(Horton)

「I felt the same way too, but this is the reality. I think when the people abandoned this place they took most of their valuables with them. The stuff we found here were probably just things they couldn't carry」(Tony) 「There might be another hidden passage right?」(Horton)

To Horton's question, Tony shook his head.

「From what I saw, there's nothing like that left. Kousuke's checking too, but don't get your hopes up」(Tony) 「Mhmm, I didn't find any」(Kousuke

Kousuke landed near them and agreed with Tony. He investigated the upper levels too, but found nothing like a hidden room.

「You finished searching I see」(Tony)

「I checked the ceilings too, I didn't find anything. Everything of value in this area was probably stored in that room」(Kousuke) 「Then, let's head back up」(Tony)

Lyle wasn’t satisfied but he knew he would be knocked unconscious if he complained any more so he reluctantly agreed.

Horton glanced at the treasures with regret, but his urge to leave was stronger so he agreed.

To those two, their exploration of the ruin was very unprofitable. They didn’t realize that the experience they gained, especially the encounter with a life and death situation, was priceless.

On the other hand, the things Kousuke gained was large. With the experience he had so far, he was able to determine more accurately what his limit was. While feeling elated with a sense of accomplishment, he reached the surface.

But despite finding out how strong he is, he has yet to realize his own weaknesses. In the future, his weaknesses may prove to be fatal.

「We’ve returned」(Kousuke)

「Welcome back, Kousuke」(Konsato)

Konsato welcomed Kousuke back. Tony and the others went into the base to discuss their findings and to apologize.

Even though Lyle acted on his own, his reckless actions allowed for new discoveries so they were able to avoid a pay cut.

「What did you find inside?」(Konsato)

「That was the first time seeing something like that so I can’t give an accurate description」(Kousuke)

The ruin he and Borudosu went into didn’t count in his mind.

「There were traps, monsters and even a gatekeeper」(Kousuke)

「Gatekeeper?」(Konsato)

「I'm pretty sure it was a gatekeeper as it was protecting a storage room」(Kousuke)

「…. But if it's just a storage room a gatekeeper being there doesn't make sense… Maybe this might have something to do with my research?」(Konsato)

Konsato was thinking deeply as he remembered something.

「Was this place very special?」(Kousuke)

「Special? I guess so. There's a record saying that this temple had a storage room filled with all the valuables for safekeeping. But we never found that storage room so I assumed that it was mistakenly recorded」(Konsato)「So the discovery of that gatekeeper was an evidence supporting that record?」(Kousuke)

Konsato nodded.

「…. Is it possible.. That the gatekeeper is also a valuable research material?」(Kousuke)「It might be」(Konsato)

「…. Sorry. I broke the gatekeeper」(Kousuke)

「You broke it?」(Konsato)

「Lyle and Horton were being chased by it so I broke it to save them」(Kousuke)

「Well, if that's the case then it can't be helped. What's the condition you left the gatekeeper in?」(Konsato)

Kousuke told him to the best of his memory. He also explained that magic can't be used around it.

「You were unable to cast any spells I see. This is intriguing. The sculpture has its chest and a hand destroyed… and its head was lopped off…… Well, I'm sure it'll be fine」(Konsato)

Konsato was imagining that the sculpture's size was just a bit bigger than an adult male. He didn't fancy the idea that the sculpture Kousuke defeated was four meters tall.【**TL: Kou-chan, I'm pretty sure that this information is IMPORTANT**】

When he goes down to investigate the sculpture later, he's shocked at its size and was even more shocked at how ridiculously strong Kousuke was.

The scolding toward Lyle, Horton and Iris was finished so the group headed back to St. Beria.

Konsato and his colleagues reported their findings to their organization and were immediately preparing to head out once more.

Konsato wanted to request Kousuke's assistance once more, but Kousuke had his hands full with the "Hero Show" so he was declined.

In return, Kousuke provided Konsato with a detailed findings of all the traps, monsters and relevant room information to ease his investigations.

On the day Konsato returned to St. Beria, Kousuke already left on a long journey.

ToC

16

Hiyo~

Short chapter, have fun!

Also, Alice's actual name is Alicia, you'll see that a few times in this chapter.

Monk

Chapter 16: "Let's go! To the next continent!"

Two days after Randolph and his troupe left, the town returned back to its normal feeling.

Kousuke decided to accept a subjugation request today.

He prepped to leave, greeted Shidi and headed out of the inn. Kousuke went to the usual waiting spot to meet with Viare and the two went to the guild together.

While the two were looking for a good request to accept, someone tapped Kousuke's back. Kousuke turned around with a curious look.

「Alice-san?」(Kousuke)

For the first time in a month, it was Alice standing before him.

Kousuke noticed that Alice was giving off a slightly different feeling. She was standing very close and could be seen as intimate. Still, he felt that it might have just been his imagination.

「I came to pick you up~」(Alice)

「Did you two finish your business over there?」(Kousuke)

「No it’s not done. About that, I need a small favor. It might be sudden but can you prepare for the journey? We’ll go together」(Alice)

The person that responded to the invitation wasn’t Kousuke, but Viare.

「Kousuke-san, you’re going on a journey?」(Viare)

「I guess so. It was originally planned a while ago. Viare, do you want to come too? We planned to sightsee a bit too so it might be a while before we return. Right, Alice-san?」(Kousuke)「That’s correct. We won’t return in a week or a month. By the way, there’s something I wanted to ask」(Alice)

Alice’s tone changed slightly, sounding a bit tense. It was too subtle though, Kousuke didn’t notice at all. Still, even if he did notice it’s not like he could figure out why. The reason involved Kousuke’s future so it would be a wonder if he knew.

「So, what’s your relationship with that girl?」(Alice)

「I too would like to know her relationship with you」(Viare)

The two’s gazed at each other and it seemed as if a small spark appeared between the two.

「This is Alice-san. She took care of various things for me. She mainly taught me magic and common sense. This person is Viare. She currently lives in this village and due to various circumstances is currently working alongside me. Also, she knows about my title」(Kousuke)「…. You told her about it?」(Alice)

Alice’s mood and expression became serious.

Kousuke shook his head.

「She has the gift to see people's titles」(Kousuke)

「Tell me what my title is then」(Alice)

To confirm the validity of that claim, Alice asked Viare.

Alice is quite famous and her name is well known. But she vanished from the frontlines for the past ten years so most people don't know her appearance anymore. Since her titles are also concealed and unknown to most, if Viare is able to correctly state her titles than it would prove that her gift is real.

「"The Great Witch"」(Viare)

Viare used her gift and easily stated the title. After a few moments, Viare was surprised what came out of her mouth.

「"The Great Witch"?! Are you "One Night, Thousand Deaths"?!」(Viare)**【TL: Ichiya Sen'ya 一夜千殺 – literally means one night thousand deaths.. Sorry, I don't know how to translate this in any other way】**

「"One Night, Thousand Deaths"? What's that?」(Kousuke)

Hearing this for the first time, Kousuke tilted his head. He felt that if something like that was said on Earth, it would definitely be mocked.

「Well now, that's a familiar nickname I haven't heard for some time. Where did you hear that name?」(Alice)「My father's a former adventurer and he told me stories about you. He was there that night and he still remembers it well」(Viare)「So he was one of the adventurer that was there that night. It makes sense that he would know then」(Alice)

To the satisfied Alice, Kousuke inquired.

「Ah, excuse me. “One Night, Thousand Deaths” is the nickname I got when I was in my thirties. There was an army of monsters marching towards a town about a month away from here. I killed most of the monsters on my own so I was given the nickname “One Night, Thousand Deaths”. Still, the monsters that were attacking weren’t that strong so it wasn’t dangerous for me」(Alice)

Alice’s eyes were twinkling as she recalled the events of that night.

「I heard that the adventurers there were demoralized by the sheer number of monsters that night. Among them, Alicia-san stood her ground to protect the town. Her fame soared from this event and everyone knew the name of Alicia-san」(Viare)「That’s amazing」(Kousuke)

Kousuke looked at Alice in awe for fighting an overwhelming army of monsters to protect a town.

Alice smiled bitterly at Kousuke’s compliment.

「To tell you the truth, it wasn’t as amazing as it was made out to be. I was just releasing the pent up stress I had then. I didn’t do it to protect the town」(Alice)
「…. Is that the truth?」(Viare)

At the confused Viare, Alice nodded without hesitation.

「I was quite wild during that time」(Alice)

「So it could be said that the monsters were just unlucky and the town was lucky that night?」(Viare)「That’s about it. That interpretation is pretty much spot on」(Alice)

「…… I definitely can’t tell my father about this」(Viare)

Wei held Alice in high regards for protecting that town. When he was telling Viare the story about that night, it was obvious just how much he respected Alice.

And yet, the truth was that the person in question inadvertently protected the town for her stress relief. If something like is told to Wei… Viare decided to keep quiet about this from Wei, she would rather protect her father's misconception of that night than disillusion him.

「In any case, your gift to see other people's title seems to be the real deal. I hope you can keep quiet about his title, alright?」(Alice) 「Yes! I won't speak a word. Borudosu already strictly warned me about that!」(Viare) 「Oh.. So Borudosu already told you to keep quiet」(Alice)

「With a mild threat. It almost slipped out of her mouth once, but Borudosu stopped her」(Kousuke) 「Will she be alright?」(Alice)

「She is quite careless…」(Kousuke)

They were speaking as if it was another person's problem, but they knew Viare could be trusted. He's known Viare for quite some time now so. He felt that it was enough to put his trust in her.

「Don't worry! It only slipped out once before! It's never happened again」(Viare) 「Don't let it slip out alright? It'll make things complicated if you do. Maybe I should put a spell on you that'll cause great pain if you spill it」(Alice)

Viare quickly stepped back, shaking her head over and over.

「Well, I won't do something like that yet, but if you ever let it slip out again I'll cast it on you without hesitation alright? Engrave that in your heart」(Alice) 「YES!」(Viare)

Alice had no intention of using such magic, but wanted to threaten her a bit. Seeing that it was effective, she smiled and nodded.

「Sorry for making you do something like this for me. So, let's stop with the threats and get back to the main point」(Kousuke) 「Don't reveal that it was a threat! But I agree, we went off topic there. There's no point in idly chatting here so let's head over to the inn you're staying in」(Alice)

Before they headed out, Kousuke informed the guild that he would be absent for a prolonged period of time.

When they arrived at the inn, Shidi approached them thinking they were customers.

「Welco.. Hmm? Did you forget something?」(Shidi)

「Not really, but why did you think that?」(Kousuke)

「You came back a lot earlier than usual. So the person next to Viare isn't a client of yours I assume」(Shidi) 「This is Borudosu's older sister, Alice」(Kousuke)

「Borudosu has an older sister!?」(Shidi)

Shidi heard for the first time Borudosu had an older sister and Alice's appearance shocked her more.

「I heard that Borudosu is under your care often. You have my thanks」(Alice) 「He's a guest of our inn so that's a given! Even so, he's helped us greatly by staying at our inn often and bringing other guests as well! Would Alice-san also be staying here? If so, I'll prepare the best room for you right away」(Shidi) 「No, there's no need for that. I'll be leaving the town today」(Alice) 「Is that so」(Shidi)

「I'll be leaving too. It'll probably be over a month before I come back here」(Kousuke) 「You are as well? Even Borudosu-san said that he would be absent from town for an extended period of time」(Shidi) 「Borudosu most likely went to

Kalhode」(Alice)

「Alice-san knew where he was heading?」(Shidi)

「Mhmm. He went to the allied nations of Yuke in Kalhode. There's a martial tournament event starting there in about a month. He told me he was planning on participating in that tournament」(Alice) 「I see, his long absence makes sense if he's traveling to Kalhode. I hope he gets a good result」(Shidi) 「Well, we'll find out later. I'm more worried that he might go berserk. Kousuke, mind leading us to your room?」(Alice)

"Understood" responded Kousuke as he led the two to his room.

He unlocked his room and invited Alice and Viare in.

Kousuke sat down on a chair while the other two sat on his bed.

「So, about the favor you have..」(Kousuke)

「Mhmm. Remember that Horun and I traveled to Hunsing?」(Alice)

「Yes. She was invited as a doctor」(Kousuke)

Alice nodded.

Hearing that, Viare interrupted with a shocked expression.

「Just one moment please. By Dr. Horun, do you mean Horun-sama of the Colbes family?」(Viare) 「That's right」(Alice)

「Another celebrity!? Kousuke-san! Just what kinds of relationships do you make!?」(Viare) 「Even if you ask me that…」(Kousuke)

「I feel that your relationship with her is a pretty simple one. This fella's the dragonslayer, and Horun was the sacrifice. See, easy to figure out right?」(Alice) 「….. So Kousuke-san challenged the dragon to save Horun-sama?」(Viare)

It seemed like Viare was imagining a "Knight in shining armor" saving a princess so her eyes were sparkling intensely.

「No, no, I became a dragonslayer by accident. I can't give you the details, but I didn't defeat the dragon with the purpose of saving her. I wasn't even conscious when I defeated it. I realized I was a dragonslayer the moment I woke up」(Kousuke)「It's not something people can become overnight though」(Viare)

「There's a witness in front of you. Just accept that situations like this can happen」(Alice)「Hmm…」(Viare)

Her face looked unconvinced, but Viare nodded anyways. She knew that she wouldn't get anything more out of them.

「Let's return back to the main topic, so she went to Hunsing as a doctor, what happened after?」(Kousuke)「She went as a doctor so obviously she was treating someone. Just a small problem happened when we were there. According to Horun's examination, she can treat the person, but the medicine she needed to treat it ran out」(Alice)「So it's something that can't be bought I assume?」(Kousuke)

If it was something that gold could purchase, Alice, who has an enormous fortune, could have bought it.

「Exactly that, you catch on quick. The ingredient is a bit unique and it's not something easily attained. I know where we can get some, but that location is a problem」(Alice)「Where?」(Kousuke)

「It's in a Domain of the Gods」(Alice)

「If I remember, you can't enter it unless you receive a god's blessing right?」(Kousuke)「Mhmm. Among the people there, only Horun had a god's blessing. But I can't let Horun, who has no fighting capabilities, enter such a dangerous place. So everyone agreed to find an adventurer with a god's blessing and I explained that I know a perfect candidate. Horun guaranteed it as well so the

others agreed」(Alice)「Ah, so the favor you wanted to ask is for me to enter the Domain of the Gods. That's fine」(Kousuke)

Hearing how casually he accepted, Alice was a bit surprised.

「That was a surprisingly quick consent. A little while ago you would have shirked from something like this」(Alice)「I experienced a lot while I was staying in this town. I got a little used to combat as well」(Kousuke)「I hope you're not overestimating yourself」(Alice)

「I don't think I'm overestimating myself, at least I know I'm not accepting it unwillingly. So, that Domain of the Gods is in Hunsing?」(Kousuke)「No, this one is in Kalhode. It's near the previously mentioned allied nations of Yuke」(Alice)「Our travel method is by boat right? An extended travel on a boat is a first for me, I'm a bit excited」(Kousuke)「Sorry for ruining your excitement but.. We're traveling with magic. The other side is demanding to get this done as quickly as possible you see…」(Alice)

The ancient clan wanted the treatment done as soon as possible. Alice understood why they would demand a hasty completion.

「I see, so that's the case. I guess my boat ride will have to wait」(Kousuke)「Sorry that's the case」(Alice)

「Well, I should prepare for the trip then. Ah, so Viare, how about you?」(Kousuke)「I.. would like to go too, but the travel expenses…」(Viare)

「Remember that the guild would provide it for you?」(Kousuke)

If it was a closer place then she wouldn't hesitate, but because it's so far this time around she didn't want to shove something so expensive on the guild.

「Why would the guild provide for the travel expenses? Unless there's a special circumstance I can't see them doing something like that」(Alice)

Alice was an adventurer in the past as well. She figured from what she heard that Viare's relation with the guild is a bit unique.

Kousuke glanced toward Viare to see if it's alright to explain everything. Viare was confused at Kousuke's stare for a moment, but ended up explaining her situation herself.

「So the distortion.. I see.. I understand now. If it's something like that then coming with us is probably a good idea. You don't have to worry about the travel expenses. The ancient clan gave me an advanced payment of eight gold coins. We'll just use that for now」(Alice)

Eight gold coins, this was enough for a family of four to live comfortably without working! Whether it's an ordinary person or an adventurer, that sum was enormous.

「Eh? But I'm not going to be of any help with that request though?」(Viare) 「This money is actually Kousuke's. If Kousuke allows it then there's no problem」(Alice) 「If that's the case then give half of it to Viare. Hmm the only thing that would cost money when I'm preparing is…. Ah whatever, it's fine. Yup, let's give her half」(Kousuke)

Viare panicked at suddenly receiving a large amount of money.

「You paused there for a second, but is there something wrong?」(Viare) 「You don't have to worry about it」(Kousuke)

「Even if you say that…」(Viare)

It still worried Viare, Kousuke could see that.

「Alright, so during my escort job my sword got damaged quite badly. I forgot to get it repaired. I kept pushing it off since I didn't have any need to use it. The

repair would cost some money, but even if I bring it to the smith I won't get it back in time so the money's no longer necessary. Alice-san, would it be alright if you teach me some attack oriented magic later?」(Kousuke)

To replace his sword, he thought to use magic instead.

「That's fine」(Alice)

「If possible could you teach me something that could disable a large amount of foes instead of killing them?」(Kousuke)

To Kousuke's request, Alice immediately nodded as she recalled quite a few spells that fit his requirements.

「While I'm being taught the new magic, Viare, you can go prepare for the journey」(Kousuke)「That sounds good. Ah, but I've never gone on a journey like this before so I have no idea what to bring」(Viare)「Wouldn't Wei-san know? Since he used to be an adventurer and it's something he needed」(Kousuke)

Convinced with that answer, Viare got up.

「Since you might need to buy something, please take the money. Alice-san, please」(Kousuke)

Alice reached into her pocket and gave Viare four gold coins.

Viare stared at the gold coins in her hand and opened her mouth.

「…… This… I can't accept this. I'm not doing anything.. So this much is..」(Viare)

When she actually received it, she felt even more reserved and uncomfortable accepting it.

「Then, how about if it's a loan? You can pay it back whenever you can」

(Kousuke)「Mm.. if it's that then.. I'll borrow four gold coins then. But I don't need all four right now so could one of you hold onto the three gold coins for the meantime? I think I'll end up dropping them if I have them all」(Viare)「That does sound likely…」(Kousuke)

The convinced Kousuke accepted the three gold coins and placed them on the table.

Viare left the inn to prepare.

Kousuke gathered his things and separated the things into two groups, one for traveling and the other to leave behind. He planned to pay Shidi to store the things he wanted to leave behind. It's not much so she should accept it.

「I'm done preparing so please teach me the magic」(Kousuke)

「Very well. I'll be teaching you "Shockwave", "Earthen Spear", and "Explosive Fireball". "Shockwave" is the one that can incapacitate enemies. If you're aiming to not kill then don't use "Earthen Spear" or "Explosive Fireball"」(Alice)「Fights that involve a lot of bloodshed is a bit…」(Kousuke)

「Just in case it's a good idea to learn those too. The place I'm asking you to go have dangerous monsters roaming around too」(Alice)「Come to think of it, what kind of place is the Domain of the Gods?」(Kousuke)

Alice explained that what she learned is from hearsays and books before she began.

The name of the particular Domain of the Gods is "Columudg" and this domain has a few gods involved.

It doesn't have any peculiar terrains. It has forests, plains, rivers, and mountains. Animals and monsters are everywhere.

It doesn't have any human settlements. Therefore this domain is an unspoiled nature. It contains precious plants and ores, as well as near extinct species.

It's possible to travel from edge to edge of this domain in a week.

Even though there are people that can enter this domain, the reason why it still contains these precious materials is because the amount they can bring out is limited. Furthermore, without a god's permission the materials can't be brought out.

「Permission?」(Kousuke)

「Every Domain of the Gods have a shrine-like building in them. You need to go there to get permission」(Alice) 「How do I know I got permission? Will I get some sort of proof?」(Kousuke) 「Apparently you'll receive a verbal confirmation from a god. Also, you'll go through a trial before you're allowed to enter the shrine. Each trial is different from person to person. Depending on which god is giving you the trial, the difficulty will vary as well」(Alice) 「A trial huh. Is it something like a large monster or a storm chasing me?」(Kousuke) 「Trials like that have appeared before. I haven't heard of any deaths though. If you receive a fatal wound inside the domain you'll get healed and thrown out」(Alice)

These measures were not placed because the gods favored the humans, but because humans dying inside the domain would be a nuisance. The Domain of the Gods followed the rule of "Survival of the Fittest". Since dying is a given inside the domain, everything inside doesn't leave resentment when they die. But human beings, or any creature with a high enough intelligence, would leave behind the feeling of regret when they die. Negative emotions like that lingering in the domain would taint it. Gods that want to maintain the natural order of their domains would throw out human beings if they're about to die.

Without realizing what the true reason was, Kousuke was simply relieved that he wouldn't die inside the domain.

「Hearing that I feel a bit better」(Kousuke)

「I'm glad you feel better, but failure means you'll be barred from entering again for an entire year. Please keep that in mind. Don't push yourself, but do your best」(Alice) 「Got it」(Kousuke)

「Alright, let's talk about magic again」(Alice)

Alice explained the movements and incantations required for each spell one at a time.

“Shockwave” is emitted out of the hand. By sweeping the hand like a sickle mowing grass, it’s possible to change the focus from a singular point to a cone in front of the caster.

For the best effect, casting it at point blank range was recommended. Ordinary people would be killed by this method though. It becomes weaker the wider the spray is, about five meter is its limit this way. This method’s strength at best would trip an adult male. If it’s just tripping something, the magic he learned from Tony would be enough though.

“Earthen Spear” is just as it sounded, spears made out of the ground spikes out. It can create one to thirty spears, its amount is up to the caster. The spears can be created in a range of three meters around the caster. The largest spear that can be created is about a meter in length with a width of fifty centimeters.

There is also a similar magic that uses ice as a medium instead.

The last magic taught was the “Explosive Fireball”. This summons a fireball with a diameter of a meter. If it hits something or whenever the caster wishes, the fireball will explode, spreading fire everywhere. Not only can it cause great damage, but it can also be used as a smokescreen.

By the way, the strongest spell in Kousuke’s current arsenal is “Beam”. Its weakness is that it only travels straight and is easily avoided, but it has enough firepower to pierce through steel.

「Well, that’s about it. Just practice a bit to get used to them」(Alice) 「Thank you」(Kousuke)

The two confirmed the incantation and movements once more. They cleaned up the room a bit and began to chat idly as they waited for Viare. When it was about lunchtime, Viare came into the room lugging a giant backpack.

「Sorry for keeping you waiting」(Viare)

「Since Viare arrived, shall we get going?」(Kousuke)

「Before that, let's get something to eat first. Will it be fine if we dine in this inn?」(Alice) 「Should be fine」(Kousuke)

「Then please lead the way」(Alice)

The three left the room and headed to the dining area.

After they finished lunch, they gave their farewells to Shidi. She requested for some souvenirs and saw the three off.

Alice began preparing to use her teleportation magic. After ten minutes she turned around to the other two.

「You two, grab my hand. If you're too far I can't teleport with you」(Alice)

Alice offered her hands to the two. Once the two grabbed a hand each, Alice casted the spell.

Since it was Viare's first time teleporting with magic her face was very stiff.

Right when Kousuke tried to calm Viare down the magic was completed and the three vanished from St. Beria.

Shidi glanced up from the spot the three vanished from and prayed for their safety. After, she headed back into the inn.

ToC

17

Hiyo~

So I realized I mistranslated the spell “Earthen Spear” as “Earthen Arrow” in Ch16. It’s fixed now~

Monk

Chapter 17: “The aimless, leisurely travel through the domain”

The three teleported near a town that’s near the domain. The distance from the town to the domain is about six hours by foot, straight east.

The town’s name is Aterio. Besides the travelers that come here to either enter or pray at the domain, it’s just a small town with no specialties.

North of Aterio is the city that’s planning on holding the martial tournament. It’ll take about seven days to reach that town by foot from Aterio.

The three entered the town to find an inn.

Since Kousuke would be setting out on the same day, the room was meant for Viare and Alice.

They entered the room and Kousuke was told the various details of “Columudg”.

「When you enter “Columudg”, head to the forest in the northeastern area. The shrine is located in there. If you travel from this town to the domain, you should see a marshland the moment you enter. You can travel through it, but some parts are very deep so be careful. If you continue traveling straight you should see a river. There are monsters that live in that river, but you shouldn’t have any problems with them if you fly over the river. Past the river should be the forest with the shrine. The most important thing to do is to not kill too many animals or monsters in there. The same applies for the herbs and ores. Although,

if it's to protect yourself then killing them is fine. Killing for the sake of killing is prohibited in there」(Alice)

「What happens if someone does that?」(Kousuke)

「It was recorded that the person would get forcefully expelled」(Alice)

「I'll be careful then. Hmm, then one last thing, what are the characteristics of the herb in question?」(Kousuke)

「It's called "Italmik" and it's an herb that blooms a small, pale blue flower. There are four oval leaves on it. The leaves grow near the roots of the herb and the stem is about five centimeters tall. If it's in that domain's forest then it should be growing everywhere. Make sure you gather the entire thing, roots included」(Alice)

「Got it. I'll be heading out soon then. I'll leave the things I don't need to bring with you then」(Kousuke)

「Have a nice trip」(Alice)

「Please be careful to not get hurt」(Viare)

The two saw Kousuke off.

The moment he left the town he immediately flew towards "Columudg". The direction of the domain had dark clouds in the sky, it looked like it was going to rain.

『I probably won't get sick from the rain since its summer, but I really don't want to get drenched』He thought as he flew.

Two hours of flying later, Kousuke noticed a swarm of tents and people below. He figured that this was the domain's boundary.

He slowed down his speed and look down at the people below before entering into the domain. The group of people prayer down below never noticed Kousuke overhead.

His other reason for slowing down was because the possibility of crashing into an invisible wall wasn't zero. In truth, all he felt was a tiny sensation, like a soap bubble landing on him. He was safely able to enter the domain.

He landed after he flew deeper into the domain. He didn't want to land too close to the boundary since the people praying would see him and possibly cause a scene. He also didn't want to use all of his mana just in case magic was needed.

「I'm glad there's at least something like a road here」(Kousuke)

Rather than calling it a road, it was just sparse sand bars that dotted the marshland. It was better than trudging through mud though.

Right when he was about to travel onward.

「The brother over there!」(???)

He was suddenly yelled at. The voice sounded like it came from a child.

Kousuke was startled by the voice and swiftly turned around and looked down at the source of the voice. He was surprised since he couldn't sense the person's presence at all. From his experience so far, anything within a few dozen meters of him that wasn't intentionally hiding their presence would be noticeable. But he wasn't able to pick up the slightest bit of presence of the person that yelled out to him even though he could sense other life forms in the marshland.

Behind a thin tree, a small boy around eight years old hopped out into the open. He had dark green hair, a dark green short sleeve shirt, and a light brown shorts on.

「Is.. Is something the matter? This place isn't somewhere a small child should be」(Kousuke)

「I came here in my father's place to gather herbs. I was able to avoid bumping

into any monsters so far, but I don't think my luck will continue past this point. And while I was trying to figure out what to do, I saw you drop down from the sky. Hey! Since you're here it means you're heading to the shrine right? Please take me with you, PLEASE!」(???)

Kousuke was too good-natured to leave a child like this alone in a dangerous place so he nodded.【**TL: Kou-chan.. people can't die in there remember?**】

「I don't mind taking you with me, but why did you come? Was there no one else older that could to this?」(Kousuke)

The child shook his head.

「Only my father and I have a title that allows us to enter this domain」(???)

Kousuke figured that the child had no escorts since there were no adventurers around that could enter this domain. Otherwise, who would let a child go into such a place alone?

「Ah, I see. I'm Kousuke. Call me Kousuke, Niichan, Oniisan, or whatever else you want to call me」(Kousuke)

「Then I'll call you Oniisan. I'm called Lin. Please take care of me!」(Lin)

「Me too」(Kousuke)

The two finished introducing each other and began walking.

The surrounding was filled with marshes, there were no signs of the river or forest. On occasion eel-like monsters with sharp fangs or plants with scythe-like roots would assault them, but Kousuke repelled them with his sheathed sword.

The two proceeded without any issues.

Then, a small problem came up that made the two stop.

「There's no more road to walk on…」(Kousuke)

「Yea, what should we do? I can't tell by looking if its shallow or deep now」(Lin)

「I can carry you and fly. Sound good?」(Kousuke)

「Will your mana last? It looked like to get here you were flying as well」(Lin)

「I'll be fine」(Kousuke)

He casted the spell and carried Lin. Kousuke flew at a reasonable speed to not scare Lin.

Despite flying high up in the sky, he couldn't see any signs of the river. Perhaps he would end up spending the rest of the day just to get out of the marshland. On the other hand, he could see some rocks to the south. It looked about four hours away even if they flew.

「There's still a long way to go…」(Kousuke)

At Kousuke's words, Lin nodded.

After flying for fifteen minutes, Kousuke spotted a road so they landed.

As the two walked, the edges of the marshland came into sight, but they also saw raindrops splashing into the marshes. It wasn't raining hard, but drizzling strong enough to create a heavy fog. The clouds in the sky seemed endless, it looked like the rain won't stop any time soon.

Kousuke took off his jacket and covered Lin from the rain with it.

「We managed to get out of the marshland, but we'll definitely get drenched by this rain. Lin, did your father tell you of any place that might work as a shelter around here?」(Kousuke)

「I think there should be some caves near the marshlands. He told me to rest there for the night」(Lin)

「Come to think of it we did see that before. Let's head there then」(Kousuke)

「Mm」(Lin)

The two restarted their walking and headed toward to caves they saw before.

When they entered a cave they spotted remnants of a campfire and a small resting area left behind by previous travelers.

Kousuke took out towels to dry themselves off and started a campfire using the leftover firewood to dry their clothes.

「It's starting to rain harder now. I hope it won't continue past the night」(Kousuke)

The sound of raindrops hitting the ground became louder. The rain became stronger overtime and didn't stop the entire night.

「Let's quickly eat something and get some sleep. Sound good Lin?」(Kousuke)

「Mm. I'm tired too」(Lin)

Despite stating his weariness, his voice sounded quite energetic.

Kousuke took out the rations and a pot filled with water he conjured using magic to make a simple soup. He considered making enough for breakfast the next day, but stopped since it might spoil overnight.

Since Kousuke only brought one bowl, they took turns to eat. Lin also brought some rations, but completely forgot to bring tableware.

When they finished eating, they cleaned the dishes with water and promptly lied down to sleep.

Kousuke glanced at Lin and saw him bundled up in the blanket with his eyes closed. Kousuke followed suit and also closed his eyes to sleep. His experience with Tony and the escort mission trained Kousuke to react instantly if anything happened while he slept.

That night, ignoring the one time when something's presence drew close before withdrawing, was peaceful so his vigilance was unnecessary. That presence withdrew instantly when Kousuke stared at its direction.

The two woke up, had breakfast and resumed their travel through the wilderness. The rain from yesterday softened the ground, but compared to the marshes, the puddles and mud didn't slow them down one bit. The clouds thinly blanketed the entire sky and the two were grateful for the weakened sunlight.

Past noon, around four o'clock, the two arrived at the river. The river was 80 meters wide. From a quick look around they couldn't see anything resembling a bridge.

「The rain yesterday made this river bigger」(Kousuke)

The current was strong and the water level was abnormally high.

「It would be nice if we could fly over, but it seems dangerous right now」(Kousuke)

The clouds in the sky were starting to darken. It didn't rain yet, but they could hear the thunder's rumbling and the lightning in the clouds were brightening the sky. If they flew up carelessly, it was likely they would get struck by lightning. Kousuke could probably survive a lightning strike, but it would be a fatal strike

for Lin.

【TL: Thunder = the sound, Lightning = the actual electrical bolt. I know some of you may know, but I hear it used interchangeably constantly and it bugs me…】

Their other option to swim through the river was equally bad though. With the current's strength, Lin would more than likely get swept downstream. Also, the monsters in the river would make it impossible to swim across safely.

「We can try to find a more shallow point to cross, but if we can't do you mind if we camp out for the night?」(Kousuke)

「Mm」(Lin)

They kept a five meter distance from the river as they walked downstream.

Unlike Kousuke who was absentmindedly staring at the river, Lin was observing the river with a curious glint in his eyes. The violent current piqued his interest. Lin understood the dangers of a strong current, but his childish curiosity was getting the better of him.

「Hm? Hey, it's dangerous if you get close to the river」(Kousuke)

「I want to take a closer look for a bit」(Lin)

「You may slip on the edge and fall into the river you know?」(Kousuke)

「So no?」(Lin)

「Yea it's a no」(Kousuke)

To that response, Lin lowered his head in a downcast manner. Kousuke was a little saddened to see him like that, but he couldn't give permission to do something dangerous to another person's child.

Five minutes later, they spotted rocks in the river that provided footing to

cross. If the river was calm it would be a perfect way across.

「I think it'll be safe if I'm careful enough. Lin, give me your hand」(Kousuke)

He held Lin's hand and got closer to the river.

The depressed Lin's expression suddenly began to sparkle.

Kousuke had his sword in the other hand to fight off any monsters that may suddenly appear.

「Can we cross using this?」(Kousuke)

The rocks were barely visible above the water and would occasionally get drowned out by large waves.

In this situation, if he was alone then it could work, but he has Lin with him right now and he figured it would be difficult to carry him across this.

While Kousuke was thinking, Lin was trying to lean over the edge to look into the river but realized his mistake. Kousuke was still holding his hand so he couldn't sit down to get a closer look. Nevertheless, he barely managed by leaning as close as possible towards the river. Something noticed Lin and its pale blue octopus-like tentacle shot out from the river.

「Uwaaa!?」(Lin)

It gripped Lin's arm and tried to drag him into the water. Lin's face was strained while enduring the pain from being pulled back and forth.

「Tsk」(Kousuke)

Kousuke clicked his tongue, feeling irritated for not noticing the monster's presence. He immediately swung his sword and dismembered the tentacle attached to Lin.

He grabbed Lin and distanced himself from the river.

He became cautious in case the monster came out, but it didn't chase and the river's state was the same as before.

「Probably a bad idea to cross that huh…」(Kousuke)

Since he's unable to sense anything in the river, his plan to carry Lin and cross over was dropped and decided to camp for the night.

He unwrapped the tentacle on Lin's arm and grimaced slightly at the slightly swollen arm.

「Lin, are you alright?」(Kousuke)

「Mm」(Lin)

「Really? It doesn't hurt?」(Kousuke)

「Mm. I'm fine」(Lin)

He shook his arm to show its fine.

「I see. We'll be resting around here until the river calms down. Let's unpack」(Kousuke)

The two distanced themselves from the river, dropped their bags and sat on the dry ground.

The dark clouds in the sky slowly dispersed as the sun set and around 8 o'clock at night they were all gone. The night sky was completely clear and a beautiful

starry view could be seen.

For dinner, Kousuke prepped the rations and grilled the dismembered tentacle, but Lin refused to eat the tentacle so Kousuke ate it all. It was a nostalgic moment for Kousuke to be able to eat Japanese food again.

As a precaution he casted a pesticide and poison removal magic on the tentacle before eating. His first bite was small and cautious, but it was unexpectedly delicious and it vanished instantly. 『It would have been more delicious with sauce or wasabi soy sauce』thought Kousuke while Lin's eyes were reflecting disbelief at Kousuke's actions.

The following morning. The originally violently flowing river was absolutely calm. The water was still difficult to see through, but the rocks' positions were firmly recognizable.

Kousuke felt confident that he would be able to sense the monsters now so he carried Lin and lightly hopped from one rock to another. Just like yesterday, an octopus tentacle attacked them but Kousuke was able to ward them off without issue.

「We made it」(Kousuke)

He lowered Lin down and turned around. The octopus tried a last ditch effort to attack once more, but failed. 『What a waste』Thought Kousuke, as the tentacle he just lopped off fell into the river. He then urged Lin away from the river.

「The shrine is in that forest right? It's a bit far」(Kousuke)

While focusing his gaze, he pointed at the small green area in the distance. It seemed Lin could see it too since he nodded.

「Yea, it's over there」(Lin)

「Think we can make it to that forest within by today?」(Kousuke)

If they walk then Kousuke has to match Lin's pace, making their travel slow. He set an ETA while taking that into consideration.

Kousuke and Lin leisurely began their travel since it's not like the forest would run away.【**TL: Kou-chan, that's a flag**】

Noon came around so the two stopped to have lunch. The two's surrounding was an open field with grass and a few large boulders. The sky was clear with the occasional bird monsters dotting it. The two managed to survive through the heat with the occasional breeze and magic ice wrapped in a towel. It was unthinkable to wear a jacket in this heat so it was wrapped around his waist.

「Once again, its rations. I hope when we enter the forest we'll find something else to eat」(Kousuke)

「My father said there are」(Lin)

「Really? That's a huge relief to know」(Kousuke)

As expected, eating rations every meal was getting tedious. He sighed in relief knowing there's something else to eat soon.【**TL: Kou-chan.. you ate an octopus tentacle LAST NIGHT**】

Finished with lunch, the two began cleaning up but suddenly heard a bird monster's cry from overhead. And that cry was getting louder by the moment.

「A monster?」(Kousuke)

He drew his sword and looked up. As expected, a bird monster was flying down towards them.

But everything wasn't as expected! Behind that one bird monster were four more and were speeding up even more seeing Kousuke and Lin standing still. Furthermore, they weren't disorganized, but flying in a V-formation.

They're called "Trooper Eagles" and they hunt as a highly organized group. He saw a few of them before when he entered the domain, but this was the first time they attacked.

「Lin! Get behind me!」(Kousuke)

He hid Lin behind him and considered using the gust magic. It was instantly dismissed. He wouldn't have enough time to use it.

Kousuke took up a stance and waited for the monsters' attack.

A few seconds later, when the monsters were about three meters away from Kousuke, they twisted their wings slightly and abruptly changed their direction. Normally, doing that would be strenuous and painful for a bird, but because they were monsters they were able to continue flying without pause or discomfort.

The main goal of the Trooper Eagles wasn't Kousuke, but his bag instead.

The leading three monsters plunged their talons into his bags and flew up. The remaining two plunged toward Kousuke to distract him.

Unable to move because he was protecting Lin, his bags were stolen.

After warding off the two, Kousuke turned his gaze toward the escaping three and casted a strong gust toward them to strike them down.

The three birds shook violently and dropped the bags, but the remaining two swooped in and retrieved it. In the end, his bags were stolen.

「I've been had!」(Kousuke)

From their mobility and speed difference in the air, Kousuke knew he wouldn't be able to catch them.

「Why did they take your bags?」(Lin)

「They were probably after the rations inside」(Kousuke)

「Those monster's sense of smell is that strong? Well, no point crying over spilled milk. Kousuke, something fell out of the bag earlier so let's at least retrieve that」(Lin)【**TL: Wait.. Lin.. what happened to calling Kou-chan "Oniichan"**】

Even though the important things were stored away back at the inn, all of his travel goods were in the stolen bags. Thinking about what he'll do from now on, it would be a wonder if he didn't sigh in frustration.

They recovered a pot, some salt and a few water bottles. The current Kousuke only had what he retrieved, the towel on his neck, the clothes on his back and his sword.

Lin's belongings were intact.

「The loss of food is the biggest problem. It's true I was bored of it.. But that doesn't mean I wanted it to disappear!!!」(Kousuke)

「I'll give you some of mine! Plus, we'll be able to get more once we reach the forest」(Lin)

「That would be great」(Kousuke)

The only problem with gathering food in the domain was if the poison removal spell didn't work and they get poisoned.

Kousuke wasn't too willing to become a poison taster, but he travelled on, albeit in low tension.

Within the day, the two stopped and camped about an hour away from the forest. He confirmed the amount of rations left and knew they had to search for food in the forest now. They only had enough to last until lunch the next day.

「Alright, so we'll soon be entering the forest. There doesn't seem to be much food at first glance though」(Kousuke)

「There really isn't any」(Lin)

「By the way Lin, do you know where the shrine is located inside? I was only told that its somewhere in the forest」(Kousuke)

「I don't know either. I know that it's very small, even if you fly up you won't see it」(Lin)

「I see. Just when I was considering flying around to look for it… Oh well, guess we'll just have to search for it on foot. Let's go」(Kousuke)

With the leaves blocking the blazing sunlight, the two travelled through the cool forest. There wasn't anything like a road in the forest so they chose paths with the least bushes. He avoided cutting through the bushes since he thought it might be considered "pointless killing".

He stayed vigilant for any presence of beasts(food) and observed his surroundings carefully for fruits and mushrooms as they proceeded. Because of that, the two did not speak. Before, the two would chat and sing to relieve their boredom, but the two urgently needed food so even Lin was cautiously observing his surroundings.

Mushrooms were the easiest to spot. Still, they couldn't determine if all of them were safe to eat. The two also never felt any presence of animals nearby, even with Kousuke's ability to sense nearby presences. Unfortunately, the animals and monsters in the area were afraid of Kousuke and were hiding, making his ability to sense presence pointless since it only works against beings that aren't hiding. The current Kousuke isn't able to find anything as long as they hid.

In the end, their meals for the day were mushrooms that Lin said were safe and nuts they found. He was grateful they had food to eat, but it was tasteless.

The following day the two continued to search for the shrine and gather more

food. Kousuke's desire for delicious food and his incredible comprehension skill allowed him to learn how to feel hidden presences within that day.

The next day after, he was able to hone in on the general locations of the presences more accurately and was finally released from the vegetarian diet.

Since Kousuke has no knowledge on how to set up a trap, he used "Earthen Spear" in the general location of the presence. Since he still wasn't able to feel the exact location of the beasts, he spam casted in hopes of eventually hitting it.

「Today I ate well!」(Kousuke)

He exclaimed while rubbing his stomach and tossing away a bone.

Despite it just being salted, Kousuke was grinning happily since his previous vegetarian diet was truly tasteless.

They weren't able to finish the hare they caught so Kousuke chopped it up into smaller pieces and wrapped it up in a thoroughly cleaned leaf. It was stored with crushed ice to make it last longer.

「Hm?」(Kousuke)

Right when the two were about to resume their search, Kousuke sensed a number of hidden presences encroaching them slowly.

Guessing they were monsters, Kousuke casted "Guard" on Lin and told him to stay still.

『Were they attracted to the blood of the hare we caught?』Kousuke thought. In fact, the two were far away from the original spot they drained and cooked the hare, so why were they going to them?

A minute passed, the nearby bushes shook and four monsters appeared. Furthermore, there were two more hidden in the trees. The monsters looked like a panther with grey fur. With their grey-ish eyes, they were glaring directly at

Kousuke.

Kousuke swung his sword in a threatening fashion. He was surrounded and it made it difficult for him to move. He wanted to avoid fighting in this disadvantageous situation if possible. So far in their travels, the monsters that approached them would flee when he threatened them, but these panthers didn't budge at all.

「Then.. Victory for the first to strike! "Invisible strike, *SHOCKWAVE*"!」(Kousuke)

He used one of his newest spells. With a wave of his hand, a shockwave shot forth. A few of the panthers were thrown back roughly, but the actual damage they took were light since the spell was casted in a wide manner.

The panthers began to move the moment the spell went off. Four of them pounced toward Kousuke simultaneously.

Kousuke used a nearby tree to shield him from the first two, dodged the third, and stabbed out his sword against the fourth. The sword stabbed into the shoulder, but when he pulled it out he noticed there wasn't any blood on the blade. He felt something was off but he put it off for now and focused on fighting.

While staying close to Lin, Kousuke continued his fight with the panthers. He knew these monsters were different from the others he encountered so far in the domain after defeating one. He split one in half and the corpse vanished without a trace.

He struck down another and confirmed that its body also disappeared.

The fight was quite one-sided. The panthers' attacks were easily read and dodged, but Kousuke would consistently land his slashes and kicks.

「Just what's going on exactly?」(Kousuke)

While he questions as to why these monsters were disappearing when killed, the last panther was cut down. Like the rest, this one disappeared into thin air as well.

The fight lasted around twenty minutes. The effective time of the barrier around Lin was thirty minutes so he had no time to relax.

Kousuke examined his surrounding once more before sheathing his sword.

The result of the fight, Kousuke was uninjured. It was thanks to the fact that Kousuke's mind was finally getting used to his physical abilities. If it was four month ago, the fight would have taken longer and he would have probably been hit a few times.

「Seriously though, just what in the world was that? Were they gatekeepers or something similar? Did they come out because we're close to the shrine?」(Kousuke)

In reality, his guess was wrong, but he still concluded that he was probably on the right track. His doubts about this would be unraveled one day in the future in a dungeon when he idly chats with someone.**【TL: Author, why you foreshadow weird stuff again =.=】**

He dissolved the barrier around Lin, gathered his stuff and resumed his search. Kousuke's expectation of finding the shrine within that day was not met. They ended up finding it the following day past noon.

「It really is tiny huh…」(Kousuke)

The building in front of the two was smaller than half of a convenience shop. It was built with ivory bricks and seemed like it was constantly maintained. Both the building and its surrounding was beautiful.

Kousuke tried to sense for nearby presences, wondering if the shrine was empty or not. He suddenly felt a presence inside coming closer and the front

door flung open.

「Welcome. I've been waiting for you」(???)

The one who appeared was a man a bit past twenty in age. He looked normal with nothing particularly special. Still though, his brown hair and dark blue eyes would make 6 out of 10 people consider him as pretty handsome.

His presence was overwhelming though, no human could compare. Was it his charisma? Even if he was placed into a crowd of a 1,000, anyone could point out his exact location, that's how overwhelming his presence was.

Kousuke wasn't able to open his mouth in this man's presence.

「Let's not talk standing around here, come inside. I'll at least prepare some tea」(???)

The man stated and disappeared into the shrine. Unlike the paralyzed Kousuke, Lin walked into the shrine with ease.

When the two disappeared, Kousuke finally snapped out of it and hurriedly entered the shrine.

The man and Lin were already seated, waiting for Kousuke. In the back of the room was a life-sized sculpture.

「Why were you just standing still outside earlier?」(???)

「Errr.. I couldn't move」(Kousuke)

「Couldn't move? Sorry, it's my fault for not suppressing my aura. Is it fine now?」(???)

The pressure that was emitting from the man vanished and put Kousuke at

ease.

「Seems like you calmed down, good. Come, have a seat」(???)

He beckoned Kousuke and had him seated in front of the tea cup.

Once Kousuke began drinking the tea, the man started speaking.

「It's about your reason for coming here. The herb you need, you can gather it without worries. The herb "Italmik" grows in the nearby bushes of this shrine」(???)

「Haa…. Wait a minute, how do you know the name of the herb?! I haven't even told Lin about it!」(Kousuke)

「I've been watching you see」(???)

「Watching me?」(Kousuke)

「Yup. Besides me, Mitalamu, Ruumana, and Seminruuz were also watching you」(???)

「Mitalamu? That sounds so familiar…….」(Kousuke)**【TL: Chapter 5~】**

Kousuke went into deep thought trying to remember. He suddenly recalled it was the name of a god that appeared on his identification card.

「A god's name? If that's the case then are you perhaps also a god?」(Kousuke)

『That can't be true, right?』Thought Kousuke. He thought gods wouldn't show themselves so easily like this.

「That's correct. I'm the one who governs pleasure and entertainment,

Kohhawk」(Kohhawk)

Kohhawk ignored the fact that Kousuke was pointing his finger at him and nodded.**【TL: I have a sister that would point at things with her middle finger when we were kids 】**

At his sudden announcement, Kousuke was confused whether he should be shocked, scream in fear, or bow in reverence. In the end he didn't do any of the three.

「I've heard gods were real, but seeing it myself is a bit…」(Kousuke)

「It's true, we normally don't show ourselves like this that often」(Kohhawk)

「…… Then why are you here? Did you have something to do here?」(Kousuke)

「I just wanted to see you in person at least once you see. Mitalamu and the others wanted to come too, but only one of us can appear here at a time. We played a game and the victor would be the one to come here and I was the one who won」(Kohhawk)

「I have no idea why the gods wanted to meet me though…」(Kousuke)

「Well, just consider it as us gods just killing some time. We really were just killing some time watching you. At first it was just Mitalamu watching you. Overtime, more began watching, but it dwindled down to seven if you include myself.」

It didn't seem like a lie that the gods were just killing time watching him. It seemed the gods' intention to use him was very small.

The reason why the number of gods watching him dwindled was because Kousuke wasn't doing anything flashy. "An invader from another world!" It was something the gods were truly intrigued with and were watching to see what he would do in this world. Unfortunately, Kousuke was doing things similar to the residents of this world so many of them lost interest.

〈A change in Title. Gods viewing pleasure since Mitalamu-sama is watching you〉

After Kohhawk informed Kousuke, in his head an announcement rung indicating a change with his titles.

Kousuke immediately took out his identification card and confirmed the changes. Just like the previous Title, it didn't provide any effects.

「If you were a bit more enthusiastic with your actions, I'm sure you would be able to see something interesting」(Kohhawk)

「Even if you tell me that.. I had my hands full getting myself used to being thrown into this unknown world you know」(Kousuke)

「Then I look forward to seeing it in the future. You've changed since your arrival to this world. Truly, I look forward to seeing how you grow」(Kohhawk)

「I changed?」(Kousuke)

「Try to remember. You hesitated and felt guilty when you first fought a monster. When you fought in the forest just now you showed nothing like that」(Kohhawk)

「That's… true」(Kousuke)

Kousuke is currently able to cut down monsters without an issue. No hesitation, no guilt, nothing like that would appear anymore. Having it pointed out, he became aware that he truly has changed. He felt a little depressed thinking that he's able to take lives easily now.

In this world, taking a life to survive was a given, but on Earth…….. No in Japan, the value of life was completely different. Keeping that in mind, it could be said that Kousuke was getting familiar with this world's rules.

In this world, thinking that the lives of monster are precious is considered

eccentric, not morally high.

If he could change his perspective, it would be much easier getting used to surviving in this world. It would also ease the burdens in his mind. But it was still too difficult for him. The time he spent on Earth was simply too long in comparison. It's impossible to change one's view in life in such a short amount of time.

Kohhawk knew intuitively what Kousuke was thinking about, but he kept his mouth shut. Including that, Kohhawk wanted to see just how Kousuke would change.

「……Then keep watching. I doubt I'll live up to your expectations though」(Kousuke)

「There's no way that'll happen. When you go back there will be a "happening" with Viare you know? Mitalamu said that so it's definitely true. I'm excited to see what you'll do to solve it」(Kohhawk)【**TL: Now that just sounds ominous as hell**】

They were words of a god who could occasionally see events in the future. The chances of it being wrong was very low.

「……Was that some sort of revelation?」(Kousuke)

Ignoring Kousuke's question, Kohhawk stood up.

「I'm finished with my tasks so I guess I'll head back」(Kohhawk)

「Kohhawk-sama」(Lin)

Lin, who was quiet, suddenly spoke up.

「Ah yes, you did a good job」(Kohhawk)

「Thank you」(Lin)

「Good job? What do you mean?」(Kousuke)

「He's a temporary spirit I made to make things difficult for you. Since you made it here his job's done」(Kohhawk)

Kohhawk stated as he placed his hand on Lin's head.

Hearing that he's a spirit didn't surprise Kousuke much. He knew that Lin wasn't a normal child.

「I always felt that he was a bit unusual for a child, but a spirit? And what do you mean by making it difficult for me?」(Kousuke)

He always felt something was off since Lin would never get too tired despite the long travels and was too calm for his age.

He guessed that he was an adult from a small-statured race, but he would have never guessed that Lin was a spirit.

「You heard about the trial you must undergo before coming here right? While thinking about what kind of trial to give you, I decided to give you a useless companion to drag you down. Think about it, weren't you limited in your actions?」(Kohhawk)

「Certainly」(Kousuke)

Kousuke recalled the various troubles he had during his travel here and admitted that if he was alone it would have been easier.

「Well, despite his purpose, you weren't really troubled much in the end. I should have made it even harder for you. Even the monsters I sent after you in the forest were easily defeated」(Kohhawk)

「I didn't have much trouble, yes」(Kousuke)

Despite what he just said, Kousuke couldn't say the truth that he was, in fact, in a difficult spot before. The difficulty was when his food was stolen.

「Really? This was the first time I've seen someone care for their companion by singing and talking to them leisurely you know?」(Kohhawk)

Normally, travelers that entered the domain wouldn't have the stamina to keep singing all the way here. The monsters that appeared in the marshes and river, to Kousuke were weaklings, but to others they would be very dangerous. The panther monsters too would destroy a third rate adventurer. Even a first rate adventurer would have an arduous battle against six of them.

「Is that so. Enough about that then. You said Lin's job is done so what's going to happen to him now?」(Kousuke)

「He'll disappear. He was created just to be your travel companion in this domain」(Kohhawk)

「Disappear? You mean he'll die?!」(Kousuke)

「Well, that would be the case then」(Kohhawk)

「Lin, is that fine with you? Being created just to travel with me for a bit and dying because it's done is just….」(Kousuke)

「I was created just for that reason so disappearing after its done is normal you know?」(Lin)

It was an obvious thing for Lin himself. Conversely, he was confused why

Kousuke would question it like this.

「I feel that it's a sad thing….. I know! Do you want to continue traveling with me? You were so excited just checking the river. There's a lot more to see outside of this domain」(Kousuke)

「I'm happy for the invitation, but my life will end in three days」(Lin)

Lin was satisfied since his job was done and announced his remaining lifespan.

To Kousuke, who didn't know about Lin's lifespan, felt that his invitation just now was nothing but arrogance birthed from ignorance.

He looked at Lin's face and concluded that he was just being selfish so he stopped.

「Lin, do you want to help Kousuke?」(Kohhawk)

「Help him?」(Lin)

At Kohhawk's abrupt question, Lin thought for a moment before nodding.

「He took care of me all throughout the trip and I truly appreciate that. I'm glad he also sang and kept me entertained as well」(Lin)

「Good. Then fuse yourself into Kousuke's jacket」(Kohhawk)

Kousuke and Kohhawk came to an agreeable suggestion.

For Kousuke, Lin will not have to die and the quality of his armor would increase.

For Kohhawk, he would gain a powerful subordinate for the future. Lin who fused into the jacket went into a deep sleep, slowly absorbing a tiny amount of Kousuke's power overtime. One day, he'll be able to reform his body and come

out at will. The day he awakens, he will be a spirit wielding the power of a dragon.【**TL: Not a foreshadow, Kohhawk knows this will happen**】

He may have lost a subordinate for now, but the thought of having a spirit wielding a dragon's power in the future was interesting to him.

「What happens when he's fused with it?」(Kousuke)

「He'll temporarily lose his consciousness, but he'll retain his strength. The jacket will also be enhanced. This is perfect since I was thinking about what to give you before I go」(Kohhawk)

This farewell gift was suggested by Seminruuz. Seminruuz is the god that governs music. The songs Kousuke sang inside the domain were all from Japan. It was something Seminruuz never heard before. To show his appreciation to Kousuke for singing those songs, Seminruuz asked Kohhawk to suggest that as a farewell gift.

「Since he only temporarily loses his consciousness, does it mean he'll wake up one day?」(Kousuke)

「At the very least, it'll probably take around thirty years. Kousuke, hand me your jacket」(Kohhawk)

Kohhawk held the jacket in his left hand and his right hand was placed on top of Lin's head.

「See you later」(Lin)

Lin waved his farewell and vanished. The jacket also began to faintly shine at the same time.

「Here」(Kohhawk)

The jacket had a winged symbol embroidered with silver threads on the sleeves.

「Including the previous enhancements against slashing, piercing and fire, it's now more resilient against magic as well. And one more thing, imagine yourself becoming a bird」(Kohhawk)

Kousuke imagined as he was told and the jacket changed into a grey hawk with scarlet eyes.

The hawk stared at Kousuke and tilted its head. When Kousuke realized, he was able to see from his own eyes as well as through the hawk's eyes.

「That hawk will obey your every command. Also, whatever the hawk can see, so can you. The viewpoint is from the hawk's left eye」(Kohhawk)

The shared perspective was thanks to the fact that Kousuke and Lin were connected closely. This connection would allow the sleeping Lin to see everything through Kousuke and the hawk's eyes. Since Lin was just created and ignorant of everything outside of the domain, he would be seeing many different things from now on.

「This is a one-of-a-kind magic equipment. Why not give it a name?」(Kohhawk)

「….Linyo….」(Kousuke)【**TL:** リンヨウ **in the raw – "Rin'you"**】

Kousuke gave the name after thinking about it for about three minutes.

If you change it into Kanji, "Hawk Neighbor" or "Neighboring Hawk". Since Lin

became a hawk and would always be with him, he gave him that name.

「With this, everything is settled. Oh, one last thing. The stolen bag is placed in the corner of the room alright. Good, I'm heading home now」(Kohhawk)

Before Kousuke could say anything, Kohhawk vanished. His presence was completely gone and Kousuke was left alone in the room.

The reason why the bag was here was because the "Trooper Eagles" were created by Kohhawk. The panther monsters were the same as well. This was the reason why the panthers wouldn't bleed at all.

The monsters he met earlier in the domain were just coincidently there in the marsh and river. The other monsters chose to hide themselves due to the difference in strength.

He petted the hawk once, gathered his bag and left the shrine. He gathered three "Italmiks" before flying out of the domain with the hawk in tow. The six day travel he did from the entrance to the shrine was cleared in just one day.

「To think that it would be this fast when I'm able to fly all the way. Magic is truly a convenient thing」(Kousuke)

Kousuke's words to the hawk was met with a confused head tilt.

After camping for one night, he arrived back at Aterio a bit before noon the next day.

Alice immediately left for Hunsing after receiving the "Italmiks" from Kousuke.

Kousuke and Viare decided to see the martial tournament and got on the carriage heading north to Rezotikumog. Alice would meet with them later there.

Five days after they left Aterio, the two finally reached the city of Rezotikumog that was brimming with people waiting to see the tournament.

ToC

18

Hiyo~

So this one was filled with annoying names and complicated terminologies that I had to simplify for an easier reading experience. The complexity of the language jumped up quite a bit in this chapter. Of course, once it was translated into English it became a lot easier to read. Also, the tenses jumped a lot, gave me a headache. Ah well.. ENJOY!

Monk

Chapter 18: “The secret story in a faraway place”

Alice teleported twice and appeared in the ancient clan’s capital, Vesamika, with the “Italmiks” Kousuke gave her. Compared to Aterio, the air felt a lot colder here. Vesamika resided in a cold region that’s usually covered in snow for 2/3 of the year.

The kinds of people that made this their country were those trying to stop or slow down the process of aging through various means using this ideal location. It’s possible to just use magic to produce similar results, but by using the synergistic effect of the environment and magic, it made it a lot easier to produce the same results.

There were three dukes that settled near this capital as their center and eventually sent out other nobilities like marquises, earls, viscounts and barons to expand their country’s borders and produced more towns.

The ancient clan never expanded. The reason was because their population was small so one country would suffice.

The world’s population is 4 billion and the ancient clan’s country is 100 million out of that. As a country, it could be called large, but its small when compared to other nationalities.**【TL: 2.5% of the world’s population, is that small or large? Uhhh…..】**

Around half of the population have the blood of the ancient clan coursing through them, but only about 10,000 of them were pure-blooded enough to be able to become a part of the true clansmen through a ritual.

Furthermore, there's only one person where both of that person's parents are pure-blooded.

That person is this country's current king, the person Alice was about to meet.

The paperwork to see the king took two days to process, but Alice was finally able to enter the royal palace. She knew that it would take several days to process when she came back, but compared to the time when she came with Horun, it was processed faster. Even with an invitation, the two had to wait five days.

This was one of the ancient clan's characteristics, they take forever with these paperwork. If the extraneous processes were removed it would save a lot of time, but she neither had the intent nor a way to change something this clan views as normal. Even if she tried, the majority would reject it immediately.

「Witch Alicia-dono, enter」(???)

Five seconds after the guard in front of the audience room bellowed, Alice entered the room, right foot first, wearing clothes fit for someone who wields magic. She proceeded until she was five meters away from the throne and knelt. Alice made sure not to look at the king's face the entire time.

The five second wait and the right foot first was a formality expected of all who seek an audience with the king. In addition, one must wait ten seconds after the king states your name before you're allowed to look at his face.【**TL: The hell kind of rules are these!? I would fail right at the start because I would wan-pan the hell out of the king for this kind of BS**】

These strict procedures and paperwork exist for a specific reason and is not pointless.【**TL: OH NOW YOU TELL ME**】

To state it simply, it's to tell if the person is an undead or not. The ancient clan shows that they are not undead with these bothersome rules. A long time ago, most people weren't able to determine the difference between the undead and the ancient clansmen. With them being constantly mistaken as undeads, the ancient clan came up with these rules to say "See, an undead can't do anything like this", thus these precise, arduous rules were born. They continued to practice these rules and are still around.**【TL: Are you guys like 5 years old? Whatever…. WAN-PANNNNNNNNN】**

They originally did this out of frustration, but it eventually became the norm.

「Raise thy head」(???)

「Ha」(Alice)**【TL: "Ha" here is like "Understood" in a very.. VERY formal way】**

Alice waited for ten seconds before raising her head. Their speech was not normal, but something fitting for this place.

Alice stared down the remaining five meters between her and the throne. The person sitting on the throne was a girl that looked around 12 or 13 with white hair and red eyes. This young lady is the one who stands over the 100 million ancient clansmen, Anastasia Rodea Vesamika Hunsing.**【TL: Helluva name】**

Her appearance is immature but Alice knew that this person was over a hundred years old.**【TL: Loli-baba!】**

As if to prove this point, her face seems cute and adorable, but the aura she emitted was not something a child would have. Unlike her innocent smile, the depths of her eyes showed confidence and something else that was unreadable.

Her voice is very pleasant and at the same time held a tone of aged wisdom that was tempered throughout the years.

Besides her were two ministers with high positions and the other officials were lined up from the door all the way to the throne on the edges of the velvet carpet.

「We are grateful for thou for accepting and safely completing our request. Will you hand over the medical herbs in question」(Anastasia)

「Please accept these」(Alice)

Alice took out the three “Italmiks” from her clothes. The minister to the right accepted them and brought them before Anastasia.

Anastasia grasped the herbs and began to thoroughly examine them.

「So this is the “Italmik”. Appearance matches the documents. Indeed, I have received it. On another day thy reward, thee shall receive」(Anastasia)

「I thank you for your generosity」(Alice)

Alice bowed while staying on one knee.

「The one who retrieved these was thine disciple, was it not?」(Anastasia)

「Yes」(Alice)

Alice raised her head and looked straight at Anastasia before nodding.

「I wish to convey my gratitude personally」(Anastasia)

「Those words alone are more than enough for him. Once he receives the reward he will definitely be overjoyed」(Alice)

「To enter a domain and safely return after completing the task. My interest is piqued by such a person」(Anastasia)

Kousuke easily completed the task, but that was because his abilities made it too easy for him. In fact, most people would have failed and been thrown out of

the domains. To be able to ensure a high chance of success, five top class adventurers are normally necessary. Unfortunately, among these top class adventurers, only a few have a Title related to a god.

「To be interested in someone like him is understandable. His travel companion increased by one, but still it was only a two-man team. He was able to complete the task with such a small group. You're aiming to draw such a person to your side, aren't you, your highness?」(Alice)

Alice left out the part that the "companion" was a child. It'll end up raising Anastasia's valuation of Kousuke to a whole new level.

「Hiding it seems pointless. Yes, thou is correct. Having many capable individuals around is never an issue」(Anastasia)

「That person is not willing to enter the spotlight. It's best to give up on pulling him in」(Alice)

「Only if that is his will」(Anastasia)

Anastasia can see through Alice's attempt to protect Kousuke. Not because of any unshakeable proof, but through her intuition. She had faith that her intuition was correct.**【TL: Women's intuition = Polygraph test on crack apparently. I'm terrified ;-;】**

If Kousuke wanted to promote himself then Alice wouldn't be trying to protect him. But from her interactions with Kousuke, it was obvious he had no such intent. Therefore, Alice must act this way.

「Of course it is his will. If he was looking to gain power and authority then wouldn't he have come here to have an audience with your highness?」(Alice)

「Hmm, this is true. If his purpose was as such, he would have aggressively rose

and his name would be famous. Unfortunately, I have yet to hear any such rumor of someone successfully completing a domain's trial and returning unharmed」(Anastasia)

「I hope that you believe me now」(Alice)

「Mm」(Anastasia)

Though she nodded, Alice noticed a glint of doubt in Anastasia's eyes.

「If possible, relay to him that I wish to meet him」(Anastasia)

「I have received your command」(Alice)

And in reverse, Anastasia saw rejection reflecting in Alice's eyes. Anastasia nodded, keeping silent. She knew that Alice is covering for Kousuke so it's likely that message will not be given.

The two besides Anastasia also felt the sense of rejection from Alice. They won't scream out that it was rude since her highness agreed and nodded already. They could only accept and obey. If a plot was necessary, the two would receive notice of it soon.

「Next is about Horun's case」(Anastasia)

「As long as your highness adheres to our previous agreement I have nothing more to say about it」(Alice)

「"Don't involve us in your problems next time", correct?」(Anastasia)

「Yes」(Alice)

The request Horun accepted was to treat a Dukedom's family head. The head was not bedridden due to assassination attempts, but his sudden collapse enabled the other nobilities to secretly plot.

Those nobles would view Horun as a problem and may direct assassins to kill her. Having a precious friend dragged into such a situation was something Alice would not tolerate. Thinking about what may happen, she wanted to make sure Horun was protected.

Those who despise being dragged into other's problems could just avoid the place. Unfortunately, Alice didn't have such luxury to choose that. Horun told Alice that she was going to stay here and it was possible that this place was going to become Horun's second home.

Due of this, Alice was no longer able to avoid the problems that may arise. Therefore, as one of the reward, Alice wanted her highness to show commitment towards keeping Horun safe from harm.

「This is something I wish to confer. Unfortunately, not everything is under my control」(Anastasia)

There are no kings or queens capable of controlling all of their nobles. Even Alice understood this.

「…..I understand… But she's an important friend to me and I cannot stand around just praying for her safety」(Alice)

「I promise to protect her as much as I can. Duke Hughes's family shall do their utmost to protect her as well. To myself, Horun-dono's abilities and her charisma are truly attractive」(Anastasia)

「I hope your highness will not drag her into any more problems」(Alice)

「I understand. In exchange, do a small favor from myself, that should not be a problem for thee, correct? I wish for a message to be relayed to another country. The words of Horun-dono would surely be more effective since she helped many in the past. It's not an internal affair so the nobles here will be less tempted to try anything」(Anastasia)

「I'll believe your highness for now」(Alice)

「Our business is concluded. Thou may withdraw」(Anastasia)

「Ha」(Alice)

Alice stood up, bowed once and left the audience room.

「Minister of the Left」(Anastasia)

Without turning her head, Anastasia began speaking with one of the ministers.

「Ha」(Left Minister)

「Increase the security around Horun-dono」(Anastasia)

「I have received your command」(Left Minister)

The minister headed out of the audience room to begin his work.

「Minister of the Right」(Anastasia)

「Ha」(Right Minister)

「What are the chances of successfully gaining information on Alicia-dono's disciple?」(Anastasia)

「…..It will be difficult. That person has been gone from the scene for quite some time」(Right Minister)

「This is true. Still, stopping because it's difficult would be a waste. His intelligence cannot be ascertained yet, but his combat capabilities and judgments are like a diamond in the rough」(Anastasia)**【TL: The diamond part, she actually said "Origami-tsuki". Since you can fold origami into various shapes, it's a saying indicating that anything can be built with the proper instructions】**

「If you wish, I will do as much as possible gather the information」(Right Minister)

「Good. Perhaps this disciple of hers is in fact someone outrageous. Thou has noticed it too, did you not? Alicia-dono had two distinct scents coming from her」(Anastasia)

The scents caught by Anastasia was not body odor. To smell the inherent strength of another being is an ability the most pure-blooded ancient clansmen has.

This is one of this clan's biggest secret. Even Alice doesn't know about it. If she knew, she would have spent a day or two somewhere to get rid of Kousuke's scent.

「Yes, one scent belonged to someone who emits a distortion, the other scent.. I have no idea how to describe it」(Right Minister)

「That scent belongs to a dragon. It's the same scent of a dragon I encountered many years ago」(Anastasia)

「A dragon is it?」(Right Minister)

「It's possible that a Dragonslayer was born」(Anastasia)

The others nearby the two conversing started to become unsettled.

「Isn't that simply outlandish」(Right Minister)

「The dragon near Kalhode perished and a person powerful enough to enter and exit the domain freely appeared. It's possible the two are not related. Regardless of their relation, every country would scramble to draw in a Dragonslayer and the other person」(Anastasia)

「If a Dragonslayer exists then its fine, but even if it turns out to be false the existence of a powerful individual is equally good, am I correct to assume this?」

(Right Minister)

The Minister of the Right asked to confirm. To that, Anastasia nodded.

「Carry out this mission with the utmost secrecy! Alicia-dono must not find out」(Anastasia)

The Minister of the Right bowed once and immediately left the audience room.

Anastasia put the Dragonslayer case into the corner of her mind and began thinking about the next visitors for the day. She decided to wait until the report arrives before speculating more.

Alice, who left the audience room, was heading towards the room Horun was staying in.

She knocked on the door and waited until she was told to come in before entering.

「Ah, welcome back Alice」(Horun)

She was most likely reading a book since she was holding a bookmarked book. The title of the book was “The Ancient Clan’s Culture”.

「I’m back」(Alice)

「Were you able to get the herbs?」(Horun)

「I just gave it to the queen. It’ll be passed over to you eventually」(Alice)

「With those I should be able to treat Balkius-sama」(Horun)

Being able to treat her patient soon, Horun was full of enthusiasm.

「By the way, where's Vants? I thought he would be with you today」(Alice)

「Vants-san had something urgent come out and left」(Horun)

「That's good then. His personality drives me crazy」(Alice)

「I think that he's pretty fun to have around though」(Horun)

「Just how in the world are you two compatible… Let alone the two of you being in love」(Alice)

When Vants was brought up, Horun's cheeks were beginning to dye red.『They must have gotten closer while I was gone』Alice thought seeing Horun's reaction.

So, Horun is in love with Vants. And Vants feels the same as well.**【TL: OH LOOK, it's what everyone did NOT expect to see!!】**

The occasion was when Horun met with Vants during their travel to Hunsing to give him thanks for assisting in solving the incident back at her home. Horun had a favorable impression of Vants's distinct personality.

Since then, the two would constantly converse with one another, deepening their relationship. During the journey, Vants protected Horun from a monster's attack and that pushed their relationship to the highest level.

When they arrived at Vesamika, Alice asked Horun "Why Vants" once. Alice felt that Kousuke and Horun would be together, in fact, she felt that Horun had some feelings for Kousuke.

Horun definitely does like Kousuke, but is not in love with him. During the time Horun and Kousuke stayed at Alice's home together, Horun's affection towards Kousuke became more like an older sister guiding the younger brother by the hand.

Horun and Kousuke becoming together would have likely happened if the two were constantly together for about a year longer and if she never met Vants. That one year would have been enough time for Kousuke to become reliable and

cause Horun's view of him to change. But this was only a "What if" situation. In the end, Horun met Vants, the man overflowing with confidence and reliability.

「Is Alice against me being with Vants?」(Horun)

「I'm not against it. I just don't understand what's so good about him. Simply put, I just don't understand, but I won't reject it」(Alice)

Alice did not want to destroy her best friend's happiness.

「That's a relief」(Horun)

On Horun's face floated a very happy smile.

「Be happy alright? I asked to make sure to keep you away from the clan's troubles, but just in case take care of yourself too」(Alice)

「Yes, I will」(Horun)

Horun herself understood how others viewed her and was prepared to get mixed up with the clan's troubles if she had to.

Horun was truly grateful for Alice who did this for her.

「Oh yeah. The queen and her people might come here asking about Kousuke. When that happens, try not to give too much information」(Alice)

「I know」(Horun)

Even if Alice was successful at silencing the information, Anastasia would not drop her interest in Kousuke.

Since Alice knew Anastasia wouldn't give up, she already planned out how to use the 30 flash-coins for the completion of the request. Alice is not using them for herself, but for Kousuke's sake instead.

She planned on using the reward to create a hideout. She wanted to make sure there was a place where he could hide and rest in peace in case Kousuke's identity becomes revealed and is chased by others.

Using 25 of the flash-coins plus a few of the dragon scales it was possible to set up a great hideout for Kousuke.

She also planned to change her home to that place as well. Since Horun would no longer be in Ricardo, Alice's current home was quite pointless to keep. Quite a few people knew that she resided there as well so the constant visitors she was getting were becoming bothersome. The relocation of her home would be a windfall for her.

Alice stayed for seven days before heading to Rezotikumog.

During those seven days she confirmed Horun's safety by applying magic to her room, got invited to balls by the queen, gave lectures about magic, and finished various bits and pieces of errands.

She headed back to Ricardo for one of the errands to make some preparations to set up the hideout, but she soon realized she should have immediately met up with Kousuke due to the incident he encountered.【**TL: Again….?**】

Before Anastasia found out about the whereabouts of the Dragonslayer, in another place was a group of people discussing about a Dragonslayer.

Those people were Kohhawk and the other gods.

When Kohhawk left the domain, he was immediately welcomed back by the "Dragonslayer Watchers".

「I met with the Dragonslayer」(Kohhawk)

「Were you able to investigate?」(???)

The gentle-looking, blonde haired asked and Kohhawk nodded. This god governs learning and academics.

「I figured out why his ability turned out that way. It was exactly as Mitalamu stated before」(Kohhawk)

To his reply, the five men and women around him nodded thinking “I guess these things happen too”. It was not because they didn’t believe in Mitalamu’s words, but they were praying that it would be wrong.

The one with the long, dark purple haired showed no reaction, this goddess was Mitalamu, the goddess who saw a glimpse of Kousuke’s future. There was no reason for her to be surprised by Kohhawk’s report.

Kohhawk didn’t completely lie to Kousuke about killing some time, but his other purpose for meeting him was to investigate him.

And it was not because Kousuke’s a Dragonslayer. He was investigated because of the incredible Gift he had. It was possible that Kohhawk could have destroyed Kousuke there depending on the results.

「The gift of “All Attributes Up”.. This is the first time I’ve ever seen it」(???)

The goddess with a guitar in her hand and long sky blue hair said in amazement. This goddess is the one who thanked Kousuke for his songs, Seminruuz.

「Seriously…」(???)

The bald god with a stout build nodded. This was Doriz, who governs blacksmithing.

If it was just the abilities indicated on Kousuke's identification card then it wouldn't have been an issue. Among the Gifts, most people would usually have one that would raise a particular attribute. But a Gift that would allow someone to raise all of their attributes.. This was unheard of and they were troubled by this. The fact that it doesn't appear on the card was truly troubling for them. Furthermore, his abilities completely passed the thresholds of a normal human being. Depending on how much he grows, it was possible he would gain the power to slay a god. Even now his power was growing.

Currently, there's no change in his card despite his overwhelming strength. If the card were to have a detailed parameter of his abilities then everyone would instantly notice he's beyond human abilities. His ability to learn being a few times better than most would only be considered a cheat by everyone else.

Even though he's someone that can become a Godslayer, Kousuke's interest in the gods was lessened by Kohhawk and co's plan. Against a potential Godslayer, rather than feeling endangered, there were gods among them that wanted to see how things would play out for entertainment. The first that was interested was the God of War. Kohhawk was actually against forcefully speeding up Kousuke's growth. It was partly because he didn't want to die, but it was mostly because he didn't want to see the world the World's God gave them endangered, or worse, destroyed.

The goddess who saw a glimpse of the future, Mitalamu, was also against Kousuke's forceful growth.

The only difference about her was that she didn't want anyone to assist or hinder Kousuke. As for him becoming a Godslayer, it didn't interest her at all. As long as the World's God and the four highest gods are around, gods like her could be replaced without any problem.

Mitalamu just enjoyed watching people live their lives freely. Those who live freely would occasionally have a different fate from what she saw in the future. Seeing them in unexpected situations or producing different results, this was

something she truly enjoyed watching in this world. To better enjoy those people's course of actions, Mitalamu tried her best to not peek into their future.

This is why Mitalamu wanted everyone else to not lay their hands on Kousuke. It might seem unusual for her to be around the gods that wanted to investigate Kousuke thoroughly, but it was better than the other gods since Kohhawk and co. decided to keep their contact with Kousuke minimal.

Kohhawk was just investigating Kousuke's personality and why such a gift manifested in him.

He checked Kousuke's personality to be able to better ascertain his future actions. If his personality was too adventurous or warmongering, then his growth would have been fast, quickly becoming similar to a god.

These gods were thankful that Kousuke's personality was more timid so for now they're just cautious.

The reason for such an outrageous gift manifesting in Kousuke was related to his birth world.

The difference between the people here and his world wasn't big. Anatomically they're the same and both have souls residing in them. There were two major differences though. Being born in a world with or without magic and how they evolved into humans.

The presence or absence of mana was not the cause. The reason for their difference lied in the fact that in Kousuke's world, people evolved into humans differently.

The humans of Earth evolved without any interferences from the gods, relying solely on their own adaptability, environments, and an enormous amount of time. The humans in this world also evolved into human beings, but their evolution was mostly a strengthening of their body and resilience toward diseases, not their mind.

Earth's human beings evolutionary adaptability was incredibly complex and

different from this world's. That evolutionary adaptability affected the abilities given to Kousuke when he killed the dragon.

If Kousuke was simply transported to this world then there would have been no problems. It was because he became strong and evolved unbelievable abilities.【**TL: Yes yes.. problem problem problem.. just how many times do you have to write that ;-;**】

「In a way, I pity that child」(???)

The one pitying Kousuke was the calm, long silver-haired goddess. She's the goddess of medicine, Reilile.

「That's true. He came to this world by accident and coincidently became strong, making us monitor him」(Kohhawk)

「He's Horun's savior so I don't want to see him treated roughly」(Reilile)

Reilile felt an obligation to help Kousuke for Horun's sake.

The gods of this world were not allowed to interfere with this world's management outside of what they governed. With respect to Horun becoming a sacrifice, this too, Reilile could not interfere with.

This time, Kohhawk's contact with Kousuke was an emergency measure. The high gods even gave their permission.

「It's necessary to prevent the possibility that he destroys this world with his hands」(Kohhawk)

At Kohhawk's words, Reilile nodded.

「We should pay attention to the humans' actions now too. I hope none of them provokes the Dragonslayer too much」(Kohhawk)

Currently, there's only one place that knows about the Dragonslayer's existence. That place, through the "Clairvoyance" Gift, already foretold about it. They didn't know the exact time nor who would become a Dragonslayer though. They were only able to scry for a rough timing and that the person will be a human male.

The descendants of those prophets dispatched people who can use magic to sense dragons and are currently searching for Kousuke.

These descendants wanted to encourage the Dragonslayer's growth, but from the gods' perspective, these descendants obviously did not know that he could enter the realm of gods. It becomes known just how much they misread this when they see the growth rate of the Dragonslayer.

「That place has a screwed up legend floating around」(Doriz)

「That tribe did almost perish before」(Kohhawk)

「Are there any other place we should be wary about?」(Reilile)

「Three」(Mitalamu)

Mitalamu stated concisely.

「First would the guild. That place assumes that the Dragonslayer is just an above average adventurer. The next one is the noble that received a report from a spy. The report stated that someone interesting as arrived. He brought the idea of "Ride Hero" out into the open so it's expected」(Mitalamu)

「Then what's the last one?」(Kohhawk)

The last information was something the others gods didn't know, all of their

gazes gathered on Mitalamu.

「The queen of the ancient clan will hypothesize the possible existence of a Dragonslayer」(Mitalamu)

Mitalamu disclosed the future she foresaw without the slightest change in her tone for the most part. Her tone became slightly happy when she said the word “Dragonslayer”.

Her having an indifferent tone was normal so the others didn’t mind much. The only time Mitalamu shows her emotions is when she’s watching the people who are truly free.

「The ancient clan huh…… Should we put in a light interference just in case?」(Kohhawk)

「Wouldn’t that violate the commandment?」(Reilile)

「……That’s probably true」(Kohhawk)

They discussed, but decided to leave the clan alone.

「Are there any other problems?」(Doriz)

「It’s not a problem, but something that’s been giving me worries. The fact that he’s been storing more and more power unconsciously. I fiddled with the spirit to drain some of that power for its growth though」(Kohhawk)

「Since he’s not using any power, him storing it instead makes sense. If he does release a lot of his power, it would probably be during a fight. There shouldn’t be an issue if that happens」(Doriz)

These gods wanted Kousuke to use up the power stored inside him. If it

becomes too large, the consequences might be dire.

They're hoping for a situation where Kousuke would unleash a lot of that stored power.

「As long as he stays in calm places there shouldn't be any issue」(Kohhawk)

At Kohhawk's statement, the rest nodded.

Currently, Kousuke has yet to learn the harshness of this world. Even though he almost lost his life coming to this world. The true cruelty of the world, is in fact, that people can die for unfair reasons. Most of the people he's met so far have been kindhearted, but he has yet to meet the truly devious, cunning and evil individuals of this world.

For someone who came to an unknown place alone, he has been blessed with exceptional luck so far.

The gods were unable to come up with a solid plan with their current discussion. In the end, the gods decided to continue what they were doing and monitor Kousuke. It would double as a time killer for them, but their true feelings about this was that they wished they could have just observed him purely for entertainment.

Of course, Mitalamu was enjoying watching him though.

ToC

19

Hey-ho~

I’m on a roll! ENJOY!

Monk

Chapter 19: “No Funds, The Art of Money Making”

「The martial tournament is going to be held here right?」(Viare)

「There are quite a few people that look like contestants around so I’m sure that’s the case」(Kousuke)

Kousuke and Viare were chatting as they walked around in the town, in search of a suitable inn. Just as Kousuke stated, there were numerous individuals around them that looked like contestants.

He looked around to see if he might catch Borudosu, but there were too many people around so he gave up. In fact, Borudosu hasn’t even arrived yet so there’s no way Kousuke would see him.

「Kousuke-san, are you going to participate?」(Viare)

「Do you think I will?」(Kousuke)

Viare thought back about everything that happened so far.

「You won’t then」(Viare)

「Exactly!」(Kousuke)

The two declared.【**TL: Ba-couple ^.^**】

「I just reached the point to be able to fight monsters without feeling too bad. Fighting a human.. That's something I doubt I can do at the moment. I don't want to accidently kill the other person」(Kousuke)【**TL: Your slap almost killed Borudosu, just flick your finger for VICTORY!**】

He's recalling how he caused Borudosu's critical condition. Borudosu's sturdy nature prevented his death, but against the adventurers and martial artists around Kousuke, he would most likely end up killing them with the same strike. Even with the changes in his perspective about killing, he still viewed murder as taboo.

This could be solved with him holding back, but he's not sure how to hold back so not participating was the best way to avoid killing people.

「I doubt you would end up killing them though…」(Viare)

「Not sure about that, I'm still unaccustomed to this power so its possible」(Kousuke)「I know you're powerful, but just how powerful you are.. I haven't the faintest idea」(Viare)

Viare was never around when Kousuke did requests that required combat so it's expected that she doesn't know.

Since she'll just be a nuisance in trying to get the unenthusiastic Kousuke to participate, Viare dropped the topic.

The two leisurely walked around, buying souvenirs and snacks from stalls, much like a tourist.

Other than the souvenirs and snacks, many of the stalls were influenced by the tournament and had many combat-oriented items for sale as well. Arms, repairs, ointments and salves, services and items like these were everywhere causing numerous adventurers to stop and peruse.

Kousuke was slightly interested too and would stop a few times here and there. He's looking around at the various swords in the stalls, thinking about

buying one to replace his current sword.

「Ah, this might be good」(Kousuke)

After looking around at so many stalls, his eyes glued onto one item and greed reflected in his eyes.

And it wasn't a sword.

「Did you find something good?」(Viare)

「Yup. I think it's a throwing knife」(Kousuke)

Kousuke proceeded towards a nearby stall.

His interest in the throwing knives sprouted due to his fight with the Trooper Eagles. Magic was too slow so he wanted an alternative on hand. Still, even if he had throwing knives then, it wasn't a guarantee that he would have intercepted them successfully. Even Kousuke understood this. He just wanted to have as many means to attack as possible for all situations.

「Welcome!」(Stall owner)

「Those are throwing knives right?」(Kousuke)

「That's correct! Would you like to hold them?」(Stall owner)

The stall owner handed a single throwing knife to Kousuke.

Length of 15cm, double-edged, thin and about 2cm wide. It was crafted with combat in mind so it looked difficult to use for anything else.

It was lighter than a carrot too. To make effective use of these, it would be

necessary to aim at vital points.【**TL: Fun fact~ Avg. weight of a carrot is 50-72 grams**】

「Could you tell me the quality of this knife? Also, how much can I rough these up?」(Kousuke) 「Aren't these kind of things meant to be roughed up?」(Stall owner)

「Oh, yea that's right」(Kousuke)

「Well, let's see.. I guess you can use them around five times with small maintenance after every use before they become very dull. These kind of things deteriorate after every use. It'll break faster if you hit hard objects too. As for the quality of the craft, I guess it's about normal」(Stall owner) 「Hmmm… Can I get six of these?」(Kousuke)

「You bet! Do you have a holster for those? If you don't I'll sell you one at a discount」(Stall owner) 「I'll take that too」(Kousuke)

「There's one that attaches to the belt, another which attaches to a jacket pocket, and the last one is attached to your arm. Which one would you like?」(Stall owner) 「I'll take the one for the belt」(Kousuke)

Since he's going to get used to them eventually, it didn't matter which one he chose. The belt attachment was chosen because it seemed the easiest to get used to.

「You bet! The total is four silver coins」(Stall owner)

「That's unexpectedly cheap」(Kousuke)

「That's around the market price ya'kno?」(Stall owner)

「I feel that it's a bit expensive though」(Viare)

The current Kousuke was still unfamiliar with the value of money in this world. It was because he's holding quite a bit of gold coins. In terms of silver coins

alone, he had 200 of them. Since he was taking out only four from that wealth, it felt cheap to him.

Kousuke accepted the throwing knives and the holster that could carry ten knives and attached it to his belt. 『I'll practice in the inn's backyard later』 Thought Kousuke as he left the stall.【**TL: Kou-chan, buy four more knives!**】

They became a bit hungry so they bought a popsicle before resuming their inn search. The two were crunching down on the popsicle as they walked. By the way, Kousuke got the apple flavor and Viare got orange. Of course Kousuke paid since the two would be moving around together, he decided he'll manage all the funds.

In fact, the real reason was because Viare's clumsy and she might lose the wallet if she was in charge. Even if the person in question was aware, she couldn't instantly change so leaving it to Kousuke was for the best.

As the two continued, Kousuke would, on occasion, move his arms abnormally. Viare asked him if something was wrong, but after being told the reason she calmed down.

And so, his arms continued the weird movements.

「Again?」(Viare)

「Yup, again. We look like tourists with our amazed faces so they're assuming we're country bumpkins with too much time」(Kousuke)「It's a good thing Kousuke-san's in charge of the funds」(Viare)

Kousuke was repelling the numerous pickpockets' hands from entering his pockets. Maybe because Kousuke looked like an easy target, four more pickpockets came towards him. Those four, at the very least were left with bruised arms or with a fractured arm in the end.

Seeing the consequences the four pickpockets received, the rest of the pickpockets targeting Kousuke left.

「Their gazes are gone」(Kousuke)

「They were looking at us for that long?」(Viare)

「Yup. It was a faint feeling though since there are so many people around us. I wonder if this city's security is just poor….」(Kousuke)「Hmm…. It should be on the better side I think? This city's bigger than St. Beria and even over there disturbances occur」(Viare)

Kousuke's standard for public order is Japan so his evaluation of Rezotikumog's security was low.

While they talked about that, the two were about to enter an alleyway and a man, in a hurry, ran into Viare.

As Kousuke caught Viare before she fell and he suddenly heard something break.

「Viare, are you alright?」(Kousuke)

「I'm fine but whatever that person was holding seems to have broken」(Viare)

「You don't have to worry about it Viare. Most people would end up bumping into each other if one of them suddenly pops out」(Kousuke)

The man in the early thirties stared at the box before suddenly trying to grab Viare.

「Dangerous」(Kousuke)

「KIYAAA!?」(Viare)

Being suddenly moved, Viare let out a small scream. Kousuke had carried Viare away to dodge the man's sudden lunge.

「COMPENSATE!! COMPENSATE ME!」(???)

The man's face was red as he bellowed at the two.

「Even if you tell us to compensate you, you were also in the wrong. Watch where you're going next time」(Kousuke) 「THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!! COMPENSATE ME NOW!」(???)

「Doesn't mean anything? You…」(Kousuke)

The man's screaming attracted a crowd of people. Hearing the uproar, a few nearby soldiers came.

「What happened?」(Soldier)

「Those bastards bumped into me and broke my stuff! AND THEY REFUSED TO COMPENSATE ME!!」(???)

Before Kousuke and Viare could say anything, the man threw his one-sided argument towards to guard to make Kousuke and Viare look like the villains. The soldiers were taken aback at the aggression coming out of the man.

「Is.. is that what happened you two?」(Soldier)

「No. It's true that we bumped into each other, but that was an accident. Just exactly how could someone tell that a person was dashing around the corner of a building and avoid them in time? There should be some witnesses to prove that we're innocent」(Kousuke)

Hearing Kousuke's disappointed words, the soldiers nodded and began questioning the crowd. During that entire time the man was still screaming "COMPENSATE ME". He was being too desperate, both the crowd and Kousuke were a bit confused by him.

Kousuke thought he was a scammer, but seeing his behavior, he began to doubt that possibility. Having considered that, he still didn't feel like compensating this man.

It hasn’t been long since the incident so the soldiers gathered the testimonies quickly.

They concluded that this entire case was an accident.

「It doesn’t seem like neither side was wrong. Just an accident. There doesn’t seem to be any need to compensate, but…..」(Soldier)

The conclusion felt bad. That man was still screaming.

「Was whatever that broke that expensive?」(Kousuke)

「Maybe it was something very precious to him?」(Viare)

At Viare’s words, the soldier assumed the same and nodded.

「If that is the case then maybe a little compensation might be needed. For now, let’s call an appraiser to find out. You guys, wait here for me alright?」(Soldier)

The two nodded and the soldier left to get an appraiser.

The man was no longer screaming, but he was mumbling under his breath. He really didn’t seem normal in the head right now.

Fifteen minutes later, the soldier brought back a middle-aged appraiser.

「Please excuse me for a moment」(Appraiser)

The appraiser gave notice and opened to box to begin examining the contents. The contents of the box were three sets of teacups. Nothing in the box was intact and pale red debris was scattered inside.

「How is it? Was it valuable?」(Soldier)

Since the appraiser seemed finish, the soldier questioned him.

「Let me see… It's definitely not cheap. The maker of the box's content was Gran Misha, a famous craftsmen from a hundred years ago. It was one of his earlier works, there's no doubt about it. It was well preserved so it would have sold for quite a bit if it wasn't broken」(Appraiser)「Just how much would it have been?」(Soldier)

「If I wanted to buy it then I would pay around twenty silver coins. Others might be willing to pay up to twenty-five silver coins」(Appraiser)「For teacups, that's quite the price」(Soldier)

The soldier nodded as he understood why the man was being so noisy.

At the same time, the man started to scream again, rejecting the appraisal results.

「THAT'S A LIE! IT'S WORTH MORE!」(???)

「A lie? I hope you know that I'm a professional who's been doing this for over twenty years」(Appraiser)「This was something my father paid three gold coins for! My father told me it was one of Gran Misha's "Trump Series"!」(???)
「Ahahaha」(Appraiser)

The appraiser began laughing at the man's claim.

「This? A part of the "Trump Series"? Don't spout such rubbish. Yes, those looked like they were a part of the "Trump Series". However, they only look like one, there's a distinct difference between yours and the real ones. In the "Trump Series", on the bottom of each teacup will have a faint Club, Heart, Spade, or

Diamond emblem」(Appraiser)「Those had that too!」(???)

「The ones on yours, they can be removed, yes? The real ones have it drawn into the bottom so it doesn't fade. Those are most likely the predecessors of the "Trump Series". There are many of those sets around and their value is pretty low. I have ten sets like yours in my store and one real one as well. It's impossible for someone like me who's seen the real thing to be wrong, correct?」(Appraiser)「Th.. That's…」(???)

The man was in shock at the results and plopped down onto the floor.

「I'll be taking my leave then」(Appraiser)

「Thank you for your assistance」(Soldier)

After the soldiers gave a bow, the appraiser returned back to his own store.

「I'll be returning to my patrol route. The three of you can decide what to do from this point on. If you do plan to compensate, it should be alright as long as you pay half the value」(Soldier)「Thank you for taking care of us」(Viare)

Viare lowered her head deeply and Kousuke gave a slight bow.

The soldier left and the crowd dispersed since the incident was solved.

「Then, ten silver coins」(Kousuke)

Seeing how depressed the man was, Kousuke, who originally didn't want to compensate, took out ten silver coins and gripped them into the man's hand.

Ten silver coins wasn't too much so Kousuke didn't mind giving it out.

Seeing the silver coins in his hand, the man look like he was about to cry.

「It’s just not enough with this!」(???)

Kousuke felt irritated hearing that since he didn’t have to compensate him at all.

「Just how greedy are you! I won’t give you a single extra coin more alright! Let’s go, Viare」(Kousuke)「Wait a moment」(Viare)

Despite Kousuke’s rude tone in trying to get them away from the man, Viare stopped Kousuke.

「Is it possible that you’re in dire need of money due to a certain circumstance?」(Viare)

Viare thought this might be the case since the man gave off a familiar feeling. It’s a lot better now, but in the past she had a difficult time managing the orphanage’s finance with Wei and their situation would fluctuate constantly due to unplanned expenditures. The times when she and the residents had to go out to borrow money, they had the exact same atmosphere around them like the man in front of her. Therefore, she concluded that there must be a reason for what he’s doing.

Even if she heard his situation, it was unlikely that she would be able to produce the necessary funds for him. In the first place, Viare had no money. However, even if it’s just a bit, she wanted to help this man.

「I understand that it may not be something you would tell a stranger like myself, but I may be able to help you a little, you know?」(Viare)

Maybe he noticed that Viare spoke without ulterior motives, but regardless, he began explaining everything.

「…. My kid went missing five days ago. Two days later, I got a ransom notice that if I ever want to see my kid again I need to pay up 10 flash coins. The deadline is in two more days… I ran all over the place to gather the money, even took loans. I barely managed to get 5 flash coins so far. I was hoping to get more by selling the rest of my possessions off」(???)「So that's why you were so desperate」(Kousuke)

His child's life was in danger, Kousuke erased his indignation towards the man as he understood his feelings.

「You didn't report this to the soldiers or to the guild yet?」(Kousuke)

「I reported, of course I reported! But they would say they're too busy and couldn't bother with me!」(???)**【TL: That sounds suuuper fishy】**

「The soldiers aside… the guild not providing assistance is a bit…」(Viare)

Viare has a deep understanding of a guild's management from her work. Viare was tilting her head and Kousuke was wondering if she could recall anything that might help. Kousuke didn't open his mouth because he didn't want to make the man even more anxious.

「Normally, the guild would accept criminal investigations like murder and abduction…」(Viare)「The tournament's about to start so that might be the cause of this?」(Kousuke)

「Even if they're busy, it doesn't answer why they would reject the request. Hey, Kousuke-san, would you please lend us your strength?」(Viare)

『It came』Muttered Kousuke in his mind. He knew Viare would propose this to him. And she knew that Kousuke wouldn't refuse since he's definitely worried about the child. Still though, he didn't want to actively run around helping people.

When Viare asked him to save the children from the orphanage, he mobilized immediately. Right now, he responded a bit slowly. It was due to the difference of familiarity. He knew Viare well, but he doesn't even know this man's name. Kousuke may not be inhumane, but he's not a saint either. He'll ignore people in trouble sometimes since he doesn't know them.

If Viare didn't suggest helping the man then it would have been fine as well, but a child's life was involved so the chances of Viare not wanting to help was close to zero.

「Even if you ask me to help.. My entire funds wouldn't be able to help him reach the 10 flash coins. And giving out our money, how are we going to travel after that?」(Kousuke)「Th…Then! Complete requests at the guild! If it's Kousuke-san then…」(Viare)

「Viare, you should know from the beginning that I won't be able to take those high reward requests right now」(Kousuke)

With Kousuke's abilities, most requests would be a cinch for him, but his current contributions to the guild is too low so his ranking wasn't high enough. Even if he tried to take the request, they would stop him. There's two day left until the deadline and it was pretty obvious that even if the request was issued, it wouldn't be finished in time.

「Let's see, what else can we do…. can you think of anything else uncle?」(Viare)**【TL: Not her real uncle】**

He stared wide-eyed at the two in front of him who suddenly declared they would help.

「Why are you helping me? We just met and I ever troubled you two…」(???)

「That's true, but hearing that your child is in trouble… I'm not inhumane so I can't ignore this」(Kousuke)

Kousuke didn't want to get entangled in this a bit, but he wouldn't feel too comfortable if he ignored it.

「Thank you. Those words are more than enough. Sorry for giving you trouble earlier. I'll try to manage this by myself. Truly, thank you very much」(???)

After the man said that and stood up, Viare showed a disappointed smile.

Seeing that, Kousuke sighed and stopped the man. As a man, he wanted to look reliable and cool in front of a cute girl.**【TL: Kou x Viare? =O】**

「Uncle. Two heads are better than one, three heads are better than two. If we work together, we'll be able to figure something out. So let's think of a way to either gather the money or directly save the child, alright?」(Kousuke)

Viare's face brightened hearing Kousuke's words.

「Bu.. But I don't want to impose」(???)

「We're *forcefully* giving you our strength so don't worry about it. Besides, even if we help, it's not guaranteed we'll be successful」(Kousuke)

The man's eye began to mist and he deeply lowered his head.

He announced his name, Douglas, and began leading the two to the store he managed. That store was borrowed so he couldn't sell it. If he could sell the store then he would have been able to gather 10 flash coins.

He placed a "On Break" sign on the front door of the store before leading the two inside. The interior was part store, part residence, so the amount of products placed on the shelves were small. Kousuke glanced at the small household goods placed on the shelves while being led to the back of the store. The two were brought into a living room and sat on the sofa while watching Douglas prepare very expensive tea for them.

「Please」(Douglas)

After that one word, Kousuke immediately cut to the chase.

「I just want to ask again, do you know of any way to gather a lot of money quickly?」(Kousuke) 「No, if I knew I would have already tested it. I don't like this idea, but gambling could work though」(Douglas) 「Isn't gambling a bad idea when you're already desperate?」(Viare)

「Yes, that's why I will only gamble as a last resort」(Douglas)

The three were unable to think up of anything else besides gambling to quickly get money.

The most reliable way to "gamble" was to have someone enter and win the tournament through the test of strength. By simply betting on that person, one could attain massive wealth. The test would normally be impossible for any new adventurers, but Kousuke would be able to pass with flying colors. Therefore, the three could earn a lot by making Kousuke enter and bet on him to win.

For Kousuke and Viare, neither of them knew that the tournament had a gamble system. Douglas knew about this though. However, he doesn't believe Kousuke would be able to enter so he excluded that idea from the discussion.

「So excluding gambling, were there some things that you were unable to do alone that might be possible with the three of us?」(Kousuke) 「Even if you ask me…」(Douglas)

He tilted his head and thought back since he couldn't suddenly remember them.

「For the time being, just say whatever pops up in your head that might allow us to earn money quickly. It's possible that there are some things among them

that we'll be able to do」(Kousuke)「Something that can be done quickly…….. Become the martial tournament's champion? No.. the deadline already passed… Gamble? No, no, this is our last resort… Dig for precious ores in the nearby caves? Ah what am I saying, I won't find them in time. How about if the two of you get loans using your name? Gah.. no, I can't trouble you further like that. Maybe we can develop a new product and sell the idea…? If I could do that easily then I wouldn't be suffering….」(Douglas)**【TL: Wow.. WOW THAT FOURTH ONE!】**

Douglas was mumbling out all his ideas.

Among those ideas, Kousuke reacted to the "New product" one. He thought he might be able to sell products that exists on Earth over here. He began thinking of plausible products.

The first thing that he thought up of was a car. It's faster than a carriage, a bus could transport a lot of people and a truck could deliver a lot of items back and forth. REJECTED! He doesn't know how to build one, much less know what they're made out of. Much of the car, he thought, was imitable using magic, but they wouldn't produce immediate profit.

Next up, the bicycle. This one seemed more profitable than the car. He knew the various parts required to build one, but despite it being easier to create, he won't meet the deadline.

Kousuke stopped with the complex products and began thinking for simpler ones.

Stories like "Ride Hero" had high value in this world so he asked Viare and Douglas about selling stories.

「Selling stories, I see. It'll depend on the story's content, but this might work. However.. There's one problem」(Douglas)

Kousuke and Viare didn't know about this point so they encouraged Douglas for the answer.

「How to sell it. I don’t have the connections for this either. How about you two?」(Douglas) 「Connections? We recently came to this city so there’s no one. I could sell it directly without connections like that, right? Are there any publishers nearby?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke’s method to sell the story is not aligned with Douglas’s.

Kousuke wanted to sell the ideas directly to the publishers to get an advance payment.

Douglas on the other hand thought to transfer the story’s right over to another and earn royalties.

Douglas’s method was more correct since he’s a resident of this world.

Because.. This world doesn’t have publishers. Books are monitored and issued on a larger scale by an organization, appointed by the country. That organization is like a publisher, but they’re not waiting for writers to appear. Paper is expensive, so writers are on the scarcer side. If it was cheaper than private publishers may appear.

Most would write and make the book themselves, sell it to a bookstore and wait for the book’s reputation to rise or fall by word of mouth. It’s possible to earn royalties from troupes that perform your story as well.

If the story’s reputation becomes famous, the organization may reach out to you to produce copies of your story. By accepting the invitation, one would receive an enormous amount of money for the next few years as a deposit for the idea. Anyone who’s already been invited may visit the organization with a new story at any time.

If Kousuke wanted to sell his story, he needs to find a buyer right away. Finding a buyer immediately was nearly impossible and even if they do find one, the negotiation would take too much time.

Kousuke recognized that this world and Earth was different when he was told that a publisher doesn’t exist so he rejected the idea of selling stories. While

thinking of another idea he thought selling recipes might work.

He compared what he's eaten in this world so far to what he's eaten in his world.

The two ideas he came up with were ice cream and hamburger.

However, when he recalled the ingredients for ice cream, he could only recall the rough ideas of how it's made so he also rejected this.

On the other hand, the recipe for hamburgers was simple. You can eat it using your hands and it was popular on Earth so he thought this would work.

「I have a recipe idea called "Hamburger"」(Kousuke)

「Hamburger…. I've never heard of it before. It sounds like "Hanbagu" so are they similar?」(Douglas)【**TL: For those confused Hanbagu and Hamburger**】

「It's a flattened "Hanbagu" with chopped onion, pickles, lettuce, cheese and ketchup sandwiched between two pieces of breads. You can eat it using your hands」(Kousuke)「Hohou, so "Hanbagu" sandwich. It's so simple! To think no one thought up of something like this before. A creative way of thinking I see」(Douglas)「Do you think this will work?」(Kousuke)

「A friend of mine is a cook so it's possible to sell the idea. It should sell well for the first few days since it's a new idea, but it's too easy to make. Others will start to copy the idea quickly so the profit will gradually fall. Keeping that in mind, we need to consider how much we can actually make from selling this idea too…..」(Douglas)

Douglas began mumbling to himself as he calculated how much he could sell it for.

In about five minutes he finished. The selling price Douglas proposed was less than a flash coin. The selling price was bottlenecked by the simplicity of the recipe. If the recipe was something more complex like ice cream, pudding, or spaghetti then the selling price could have risen easily to about 2-3 flash coins and earn a percentage of the sales.

「I should have learned a bit more about cooking… Still, it's no good if it's complicated and also no good when it's simple… What should I do now? Can they not copyright the method so that others can't imitate them?」(Kousuke)
【TL: Kou-chan.. do you think they can enforce that here?】

「There's nothing convenient like that around here you know?」(Viare)

Viare answered with an amazed face.

However, Douglas's face showed that he wanted to say something he recalled, but it immediately became dejected.

「Douglas-san, do you have an idea?」(Viare)

「I do, but I don't think its plausible」(Douglas)

「Well, no worries, just say it. Hearing your idea might help us come up with a better one」(Kousuke) 「Have you heard that the God of Entertainment and Pleasure is always searching for new ways to play?」(Douglas)

Kousuke shook his head while Viare nodded.

「The person who delivers it will receive 10 flash coins. Even more, for that person, 5% of the profits earned from that idea will go to him or her. This is something like a rule from a long time ago. Unfortunately, nothing new has been presented to the god for a while. The last time the god accepted an idea was 30 years ago. The previous one before that was 70 years ago. I gave up because it just seemed impossible」(Douglas) 「As long as it's a fun way to play its fine?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, it can even be something like tag the children's play」(Douglas)

「I'll begin listing what I know, let me know immediately if any of them are something you've never heard of before」(Kousuke)

Kousuke began listing all the games he's played as a child. He began with tag then continued listing hide-n-seek, soccer, basketball, trump cards, and kept

going on and on. To this, Viare and Douglas answered “It exists” or “It doesn’t exist”.

Well, some had different names here though. In the end, all of the games he listed existed in this world.

「Even the ideas that I thought that didn’t exist like trading card games, badminton and even cops-n-robbers all exist」(Kousuke)「A lot of people were aiming for the reward money so it’s a given」(Douglas)

「I wonder if there was something else…… Othello, how about that?」(Kousuke)

「I’ve never heard of the name. What are the rules of the game?」(Douglas)

「On a 8×8 board you place on the center two black coins and two white coins. The objective is to have as many of your color on the board as possible by taking turns placing a coin on the board to steal the other player’s coins by connecting……」(Kousuke)

The difficult to explain portions, he drew on a piece of paper he received.

When he finished the explanation, Douglas’s face brightened.

「The rules are simple, but it’s definitely a deep game. Will this work?」(Kousuke)「I’ve never heard of this before!」(Douglas)

「Myself as well. This will definitely work! It’s a surprise no one came up with this game before!」(Viare)

It was probably never invented because the rules were too simple.**【TL: People thinking too hard yo】**

Douglas’s was in high spirit since he might be able to finally pay off the ransom. In the corner of his mind though, he had some doubts about Kousuke’s identity for producing all of these unusual ideas, but he didn’t want to be rude to his benefactor so he kept quiet. He didn’t intend to pursue it in the future either.

「Let’s report this to Kohhawk-sama immediately」(Douglas)

「How do we do that? Where's the place we report this to?」(Kousuke)

「You can do it here. Please imagine the rules and materials for the game and pray to Kohhawk-sama. Quickly, quickly!」(Douglas)

Douglas hurried Kousuke to pray. Kousuke wondered why he was being rushed and tilted his head. The person that was in dire need of money was Douglas, so why didn't he pray instead since everything was already explained to him, so Kousuke asked.

「Besides you, who else?! You're the one most familiar with Othello right? It has to be a detailed image when you send it!」(Douglas)「If that's the case then I'll pray. Are there any specific etiquettes to praying to Kohhawk-sama?」(Kousuke)「No, nothing in particular」(Douglas)

Kousuke closed his eyes and recalled Kohhawk's appearance as he imagined the game of Othello.

Inside Kousuke's mind, just like when he attained a Title, a voice was heard. He even felt someone patting his head.

『I've never imagined that we'll meet again in this kind of fashion. We guessed that you would duel an adventurer for a tournament spot and win the reward money to pay off the ransom money. To gather the money using the field I govern… It makes me quite happy. Ah, the one who patted your head was Mitalamu. Your unexpected conduct was very entertaining to her. She wants you to continue moving forward as you please. A new game, Othello… I have indeed received it. Farewell』(Kohhawk)

When Kohhawk's voice faded, something hard landed on the table and made Kousuke open his eyes.

Kousuke missed it, but a soft light appeared and 10 flash coins along with a certificate flew out of it onto the table.

「OOOOO! I can bring my child back home with this and pay back all the loans I took!

Thank you! Thank you!!!」(Douglas)

With the flash coins in his hand, Douglas lowered his head multiple time.

「Let's bring the certificate to the merchant's guild later. You'll receive a regular income that way」(Douglas)

Douglas picked up the certificate and handed it to Kousuke.

「Why are you giving it to me? Why not keep it for yourself?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Kou-chan!!! WHY?! Give it to me instead actually…**】

「The only thing necessary to me were the flash coins. I have no need for the certificate. Plus, it doesn't belong to me. The only person who's worthy of holding that is the person who created it, you」(Douglas)

『I didn't really create it though…』Thought Kousuke as he reluctantly accepted the certificate.

He figured it would alright to have a bit more money just in case living expenses spiked. This certificate would help him ease that burden, of course, only if that happens.

When Kousuke finally receives his cut from the merchant's guild, he would become shocked at the amount of money he would receive. It will be beyond anything he could imagine. The amount would allow him to live without ever working again.

The three discussed a bit more and decided that Kousuke will escort Douglas secretly while he transported the ransom money. Kousuke had to do it secretly since the notice stated that the ransom must be brought by one person. Kousuke wanted to see everything through to the end even though he's only just met Douglas. He also felt that the culprits of the kidnapping might attempt to murder Douglas.

Two days until the deadline, Kousuke and Viare accepted Douglas's offer to stay at his place as thanks.

Kousuke was able to spend those two days without boredom. He met Douglas's wife, brought an Othello prototype to the merchant's guild, practiced with his throwing knives and toured around the town. You could say, it was very peaceful.

ToC

20

Hiyo!

New character introduced! Enjoy~

Monk

Chapter 20: “The rescue drama left to chance”

The ransom’s deadline arrived, Douglas left his house and headed to the meeting spot. Kousuke kept some distance away from Douglas as he followed him. Viare stayed back at Douglas’s place with his wife. Viare was unable to perform any covert actions so her presence would have been a hindrance.

The crowd made it difficult to follow Douglas, but on the off-chance that Kousuke lost sight of Douglas, he could hurry to the predetermined meeting spot.

The reason why Kousuke wanted to keep his eyes on Douglas as he traveled to make sure no one else was stalking him. However, unlike when the pickpockets were targeting him, Kousuke found it impossible to differentiate the gazes toward Douglas.

The two maintained a certain distance as they traveled before soon arriving at an abandoned building just outside of the city. This building was originally built to store farming goods like tools and seeds. It was quickly abandoned as it became decrepit. The only ones who frequent this building now are children who uses it as their “Secret Hideout”.

Kousuke climbed a nearby building and kept his eyes on Douglas who was standing still in front of the abandoned building.

Five minutes, ten minutes, time kept flowing. Right when it was about to hit thirty minutes, someone climbed over a two-meter tall wall. It was a man in his thirties with normal, inconspicuous clothing. It looked like he was trying to blend in with the crowd before coming here. If Kousuke didn’t see the man climb the

wall himself, anyone would have mistaken him as an ordinary citizen.

The two were discussing something, but Kousuke was too far to hear anything. Only the sight of Douglas becoming flustered could be seen.

The two's discussion ended quickly and the man ignored the depressed Douglas as he took the money. The man quickly departed and vanished over the wall.

Kousuke jumped down from the seven-meter tall building and got closer to Douglas to find out what happened. The contents of the discussion was quite obvious though.

「How was it?」(Kousuke)

「….. He told me to bring more money」(Douglas)

Kousuke figured that was the case since the man didn't bring the child with him.

「Even if he told me to get more money.. It's impossible.. He wouldn't even listen! What am I supposed to do now!」(Douglas)

「For the time being, want me to confirm your child's conditions?」(Kousuke)

「You can do that!?」(Douglas)

Douglas looked at Kousuke with an expression mixed with hope and surprise.

The man who departed was traveling slowly so Kousuke was still able to lock onto his presence.

「I can still track that kidnapper if I go immediately」(Kousuke)

「PLEASE! I'll return home to figure out how to secure more money!」(Douglas)

「Well then, I'll be going for a bit」(Kousuke)

When Douglas saw Kousuke nimbly jump over the wall, he was convinced that Kousuke was actually someone powerful.

Gaining the assistance of such a person, Douglas became fired up as his luck hasn't ended yet. Determined to secure more money, Douglas ran back to home.

Currently, Kousuke's tracking of the kidnapper has lead him into a prairie. Kousuke kept a close eye on the man from a nearby tree. The kidnapper was tens of meter away and would glance around to confirm that no one was around, not realizing that Kousuke was following him. The man, convinced that he was alone, soon entered the woods.

「Maybe their hideout is in the woods?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke muttered quietly as he cautiously approached the edges of the woods. He probed for presences that may be standing guard nearby. Once he confirmed that there was no one there he quietly stepped into the woods.

Inside the woods were numerous clapper alarm traps. Kousuke luckily stopped when he noticed the tripwire ropes then proceeded around them carefully.

In less than twenty minutes, Kousuke located the hideout through an area in the woods with less trees.

He stopped moving forward and began circling around the hideout to see it more clearly.

The hideout was two story mansion, covering two basketball court's worth of space. The mansion looked at least a few decades old with its aged appearance and it was clearly not maintained since there were holes everywhere. Kousuke determined that this place was a temporary lodging for criminals. Criminals most likely found this place by mistake and the presences inside were showing signs that they would leave soon.

Kousuke traveled half a circle's worth around the mansion before he suddenly

felt a gaze on him. The presence of that gaze vanished instantly the moment Kousuke noticed. He concluded that this person was an expert at suppressing his/her presence. He turned his head slightly to look towards the original direction of the gaze and locked just past the river. He stopped looking further to prevent the other from finding out that Kousuke noticed he was being watched.

Kousuke began walking towards that direction, awaiting a reaction. Whether he comes into contact with the other or not didn't matter, he would fight back or ignore it respectively.

Five minutes later, a rustling sound of grass could be heard and a faint, unusual smell drifted from behind him. The presence was noticeably close now and it was definitely human.

Kousuke drew a throwing knife and concealed it into his palm without letting the person behind him notice.

Whoever it was seemed to have prepared him or herself and approached closer to Kousuke. The other person was trying to make the first move while still suppressing his or her presence.

Uncertain of the other person's motive, the moment he or she got close enough, Kousuke quickly turned around.

The culprit was a lightly dressed woman in her twenties. She had long, black hair tied up with a red ribbon, clad in black and gray clothes and a cloth cover most of her face below her eyes. On the back of her waist was a small bag and a short sword. The first impression of her was like a kunoichi to Kousuke.

「AH!?」(???)

The woman raised her voice slightly for getting spotted.

「Do you need something from me?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Really Kou-chan?? That's what you ask a stalker?**】

「…….. What exactly is your purpose for being in this place? At first, I thought

you were a comrade of those in that building but you showed no signs of meeting up with them. In fact, it seemed like you were observing them instead」(???)

The woman relaxed her breathing to calm down before she asked Kousuke.

「A child of an acquaintance of mine was taken here. I came to confirm the child's safety」(Kousuke)

「Is that so…. Do you intend on infiltrating that building?」(???)

「Before I answer that, I have a question. Are you one of them?」(Kousuke)

「I'm not」(???)

There was no hesitation in her immediate answer.

Despite being a little suspicious, Kousuke answered her previous questions. The woman too, did not completely believe in Kousuke's words.

「I was considering it if I have the opportunity to do so」(Kousuke)

「Have you ever attempted something like this before?」(???)

「Nope」(Kousuke)

The woman's idea of infiltrating was most likely different from the time Kousuke infiltrated with a disguise so he answered honestly.

「If that is the case then please cease that idea. If you're caught, it would cause an uproar」(???)

「I guess so. I only planned on infiltrating if the opportunity presented itself. I don't plan on forcing it」(Kousuke)

「Yes, that is for the best. It would only be successful if you could fly or catch them off-guard. Otherwise, infiltrating would be too difficult」(???)

「I'm able to fly you know? Come to think of it, I can escape using teleport magic if I have to」(Kousuke)

「Is that the truth?」(???)

The woman was dumbfounded at Kousuke's announcement.

Kousuke nodded.

The woman stared inquisitively at Kousuke and determined that he wasn't lying before she went into deep thought.

Kousuke had no idea what she was thinking so he continued to investigate around the hideout while keeping some attention on her.

After around ten minutes, the woman suddenly spoke up.

「Would you like to cooperate?」(???)

「Cooperate?」(Kousuke)

「I needed to investigate the interior, but there's a chance I will be discovered if I do this alone. Could you carry me and fly to the roof once nightfall comes? If something happens, it would be great if you could teleport with me away from this location」(???)

「Just a little while ago I told you I have zero infiltrating experience right?」(Kousuke)

「As long as you stay as quiet as possible it should be fine. I'll take the lead with the infiltration. In addition, your reconnaissance skill tells me that you're not completely inept」(???)

Kousuke was in deep thought this time around.

The person in front of him was most likely highly talented in regards to

infiltrating. Otherwise, why else would she be attempting this?

He knew that he's not adept at this, however, acting together with a professional might give him the opportunity to rescue the child.

After she explained her situation, Kousuke concluded that it would be fine to trust her.

「I would like some information on your end since we'll be cooperating. It doesn't have to be everything. I just want to hear a bit about what's going on」(Kousuke)

The woman figured it wouldn't hurt to deepen each other's trust and nodded.

「…..So be it. A child from an influential family was abducted. I was tasked with the rescue or if that's impossible, the confirmation of the child's location and the kidnappers' information」(???)

「On my side, our request for help was rejected by the army and the guild. I'm assuming your side is privately investigating?」(Kousuke)

「For the difficulty, I apologize」(???)

Kousuke tilted his head, unable to understand the meaning behind her words.

「The reason for the guild and army not assisting is due to an order. The concerning parties are trying to suppress the details of the kidnapping from spreading」(???)

「Is it possible that the kidnapped child is not from a typical noble family?」(Kousuke)

The woman stayed silent, but her eyes reflected that he guessed correctly.

Kousuke figured that it was a child of a Duke or a Marquis.

His guess was actually spot on. It was possible that this situation could cause a diplomatic issue. However, Kousuke didn't have enough information so he never imagined that was possible.

If the abducted child was from this country then the country's government would have dispatched the soldiers and adventurers. However, the child in question was from another country that came here to spectate the tournament. The country sent out orders to the army and the guild to suppress the news that due to their negligence in security, another country's aristocratic child was kidnapped. Otherwise, not only would their credibility be put into question, it could lead to extreme political turmoil.

However, the negligent security was only a part of the reason. The child's carelessness and the large influx of spectators gave the kidnappers an ideal chance. In the end though, the other reasons just sounded like excuses at this point.

While the media suppression was active, the country was attempting to secretly solve this problem. Among those dispatched, this woman was one of them.

The result of this all would lead to the drastic reduction of criminal activities in and around the city, but none of this really mattered to Kousuke.

「Do we have a deal?」(???)

「Sure. It's not a bad deal for me anyhow」(Kousuke)

「Is that so, that's a relief」(???)

The woman softly sighed in relief.

「For now, let's move away from the woods. Patrols might find us if we stay here」(???)

Kousuke nodded and followed the woman.

Kousuke noticed that he couldn't hear her footsteps at all as he followed her. He started to observe her movements more carefully, attempting to mimic her quiet footsteps. Unfortunately, he was unable to discern anything special in her movements so his attempts failed.

As they walked, the two gave each other their names. She called herself "Nagare".

Soon, the two exited the forest and entered a field of large rock formations to wait for nightfall.

「We'll be hiding here until nightfall, but you didn't bring any food with you…. did you」(Nagare)

She judged seeing how lightly packed Kousuke was.

Kousuke, who didn't plan for a long-term excursion, was only carrying his sword and throwing knives. The jacket is in its hawk form and was left to guard Viare.

「Think I have enough time to quickly buy some from the city?」(Kousuke)

「I've brought some portable food so I do not mind sharing some」(Nagare)

Hearing the ninja-like Nagare's suggestion, Kousuke wondered what kind of food she would pull out.

The result? Kousuke was impressed. She brought out uncooked rice, miso paste and seaweed soup stock. She mixed all three together, boiled it and the two began to eat.

It's been such a long time since Kousuke was able to eat anything resembling Japanese food, he began to cry slightly while eating.

Nagare, who was worried that it wouldn't match his taste, was bewildered by Kousuke's state. The meal she prepared was not exactly exquisite.

「Thank you very much」(Kousuke)

Finished eating, Kousuke thanked her from the bottom of his heart.

「Was it that delicious?」(Nagare)

「It was delicious, yes, but it was more nostalgic. It's only been a few months, but being able to taste something from my country made me happy」(Kousuke)

「You are from the country, Kohma?」(Nagare)

「No」(Kousuke)

「I see, so there are other places that provide similar cuisines like Kohma」(Nagare)

Hearing her mention Kohma, he inquired further about what kind of country it is.

Kohma is located in the third largest island among the Pereele Islands. The population is ten million strong. The culture is similar to the Edo era of Japan, just before the Meiji era.

The four seasons are a bit uneven there with longer summers and very short winters.

The children are dressed casually while the adults wear simplified versions of aristocratic kimonos and yukatas. The clothing Nagare is wearing is similar to the Japanese kimono as well.

Since their cuisine was similar to Japan's, Kousuke could eat familiar food to his heart's content if he ever travelled there.

「I want to visit at least once」(Kousuke)

「Emigration and immigration are not strictly regulated so please visit anytime」(Nagare)

「I'll definitely visit one day. I also want to eat rice again」(Kousuke)

Nagare became less wary of Kousuke hearing his favorable impression of her country. Most people would be delighted hearing their country praised, Nagare included.

With the tension between the two lessened, they were able to rest up well while waiting for nightfall.

Thus time flew by as the two leisurely conversed and a cloudy night soon fell on them. The two immediately prepared to move out.

「Well then, ready to go?」(Kousuke)

「Anytime」(Nagare)

Kousuke slowly started to float, flew behind Nagare and carried her up from under her arms. He began gaining altitude and stopped when he reached five times the tree's height. Experiencing all of this for the first time, Nagare swallowed hard, not hiding her tension.

They flew atop the mansion and slowly descended.

「Stop」(Nagare)**【TL: She said stop in English here】**

She stopped Kousuke's descent at the perfect height to observe the entire mansion accurately.

She searched for patrols and confirmed that none of them were looking up.

「Land on the roof」(Nagare)

「Got it」(Kousuke)

Following Nagare's instruction, the two quietly landed on the roof.

「We'll proceed quietly from this point on, be careful」(Nagare)

He nodded back at the whispering Nagare and the two began to move.

They infiltrated the mansion through a hole in the roof. Nagare landed inside without making a sound so Kousuke used magic to float down quietly.

As previous planned, Nagare began her search. She placed her ear against the floor and walls to confirm the kidnappers' position. She quietly opened a door and checked the hallway before beckoning Kousuke to follow.

The two checked each door in the second floor hallway and only searched rooms with no one in them. Their first priority was to map out and confirm the number of kidnappers inside of the mansion.

They were able to confirm one sleeping kidnapper, the rest of the rooms on the second floor were empty. They concluded that the kidnapped child was either in the first floor or the cellar.

The two returned back to the room they infiltrated from.

「Are you sure it's fine if I come with you to the first floor? We weren't caught so far, but I'll probably just be a hindrance down there」(Kousuke)

「I cannot deny that possibility. However, I also cannot deny that your magic is necessary. For the time being, I'll investigate alone. Please wait here quietly until I return」(Nagare)

Kousuke nodded.

「Then, I shall take my leave」(Nagare)

Nagare immediately headed out of the room.

Kousuke sat against a wall and waited. It was a quiet night with the occasional faint voices that came from the first floor.

Feeling slightly bored, thirty minutes already passed when the door finally opened. Kousuke rose slightly just in case, but immediately sat back down when he saw that it was Nagare.

「How was it? Did you find out where they're keeping the child?」(Kousuke)

「I have, yes. Just to confirm, how many can you teleport with you at once?」(Nagare)

「From what my acquaintance explained it should be three people including myself」(Kousuke)

「….. This is troubling…」(Nagare)

「What is?」(Kousuke)

「There were four that were kidnapped. It's not possible to teleport with all four of them, correct?」(Nagare)

「Yup, impossible. I would need to teleport three times to get everyone out. I don't have enough mana right now to handle that」(Kousuke)

If he didn't use any magic to fly here and land into the room then he would have barely had enough though.

「The kidnappers would regularly check on the children so they'll immediately notice if any of them disappear. If they notice even one missing, they may take the remaining children as hostage to draw us out. Are you capable of

abandoning the children?」(Nagare)

「Impossible」(Kousuke)

「I'm the same」(Nagare)

The two weren't coldhearted fiends that would abandon others as long as their target was safely retrieved.**【TL: Herp derp, duh】**

「For now, let's change our plan. Instead of rescuing them quietly, let's ensure the safety of this mansion before getting the children out」(Nagare)

「In other words, exterminate the criminals?」(Kousuke)

「Yes. Another thing, none may escape so I advise disabling or killing them」(Nagare)

「I can't kill them. I can probably disable one or two people, but when I do it'll make a lot of noise, revealing ourselves」(Kousuke)

「Is that so… Then I request that you escort and protect the children」(Nagare)

「That I can do. Would placing a protective barrier around them be sufficient?」(Kousuke)

「If you're capable of barrier magic then it's more than sufficient. With that, it'll erase the chance that the kidnappers would use the children as hostages. Now, I'll be explaining the details of our plan. First, engage without alarming the criminals, reduce all of their forces by disabling them. Next, guarantee the children's safety. Lastly, in the room where most of the criminals are conglomerated, seal all doors except for one and begin a surprise attack. In addition, everything is subject to change. That is all, any questions?」(Nagare)

「By "reduce all of their forces", were you able to locate the positions of all the criminals?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, I've investigated their locations. Four are asleep, one person is currently writing reports, one person was reading a book, and the last five are drinking together」(Nagare)

「Can you win against those five?」(Kousuke)

「It will be fine. With their level of competence, I cannot say it will be easy, but as long as I proceed with caution, I will not lose. However, there is a chance some may attempt to escape. If that happens, please prevent them from getting away」(Nagare)

「Is it fine that I only do that?」(Kousuke)

「It'll be more than enough. Well then, let's go」(Nagare)

As before, Nagare took the lead and they began to move.

Against the sleeping criminals, Nagare used magic to deepen their sleep, tied them up and gagged them. The four were eliminated without a hitch. Next, the two headed to ones that were still awake.

Kousuke used magic to make those two drowsy just outside the room. After a bit, the two began nodding off so Nagare approached them slowly and used a sleeping magic on them. The reason why she did something risky like approaching them was because the spell required her to be in direct contact with her target.

The two sleeping criminals were tied up, gagged, rolled to the corner of the room and covered with a cloth to make them inconspicuous. Even if someone comes into this room, it'll take some time before these two sleeping beauties are found.

Next, they headed to where the children were being held. As they were proceeding down to the children, they almost ran into one of the criminals checking on the children. Luckily, they avoided detection by hiding in the shadows of the hallway.

When they approached the children, Nagare put them to sleep to keep them quiet. Kousuke lightly tied them up before setting up the barrier to keep them inside it. Among the children, one had a completely different atmosphere. It was clear to Kousuke that this child was Nagare's rescue target. He was also able to confirm the identity of Douglas's child as well.

Once the barrier was set up, the two began the next step. The original plan to fight them was discarded thanks to Kousuke's magic so the two sealed two of the three doors and waited for the five inside to fall asleep.

Nagare was grateful since she wanted to avoid bloodshed as well. Since the criminals are still alive, it'll allow Nagare to gather more information from them later.

Since they were drunk, it only took around five minutes before they passed out. Nagare tied up the five that were comfortably asleep.

Once Nagare finished tying them up, the two disarmed the five and placed the weapons on the table. So far, everything is going according to the plan.

The only thing left for them to do was to lock up the criminals in the cellar, seal the cellar entrance and escape with the children.

For this step, Kousuke's ridiculous strength came into play. In less than thirty minutes he had all the criminals thrown into the cellar. To keep them from suffocating, a few air holes were made. Even if they wake up and get to the entrance, in their tied up state, it would be impossible for them to lift the hatch open.

「With this, the mission is mostly complete. Thank you for your cooperation. I will report everything to the army. In the near future, I would like to give you something in return so may I know where you're currently resided?」(Nagare)

While Kousuke was explaining where Douglas lives, he thought up of something he wanted to know.

「The parents of the kidnapped children already paid the ransom. Would it be alright if we recover those for them?」(Kousuke)

「Is that so…. It should be alright. The ransom money was most likely stored in the same room with the man writing reports. Let's go together」(Nagare)

Nagare intended to gather the reports that man was writing up so Kousuke's suggestion was perfect for her.

As Nagare predicted, the ransom money was in the room. It looked like the other parents also paid quite a lot, there was a total of 28 flash coins. Similarly stored and separated was the criminals' operation funds.

「I'll be taking ten then」(Kousuke)

「I have confirmed it. I shall report this to the army as well. Now then, let's get the children and return to the city」(Nagare)

The two decided to not wake the children and carried them out instead. Nagare carried her rescue target while Kousuke carried the other three. He carried Douglas's child on his back and the other two in his arms. He felt he was being impolite by carrying the two children in his arms, but it was better than leaving them behind.

Using magic to brighten the pitch black night, the two travelled back to the city. While walking, they would feel the presence of beasts approaching but Nagare would scare them away with a kunai throw.

They exited the woods, passed the prairie and finally reached the city's entrance. Since it was dark, entering and leaving the city was being heavily regulated. However, when Nagare explained the situation, the guards seemed to have already been informed so the two were brought into the guardhouse. If it was just Kousuke, he would have definitely been barred out.

「Kousuke-kun. The two children in your arms, please leave their care to the soldiers. It would be inconvenient for you if you take them back with you, right?」(Nagare)

Kousuke nodded and handed the two children to the soldiers. He didn't want to do something troublesome like explaining everything to those two's parents.

The soldiers would be more experienced and convincing in this situation.

The two carried their respective rescue targets and left the guardhouse.

「As for me, my destination is this way. Thank you very much for today. The reward will be delivered tomorrow the earliest, the day after tomorrow the latest. Now then, farewell」(Nagare)

Nagare bowed once and left. Kousuke saw her off for a bit before heading back to Douglas's home. His house's lights were still on. It was clear they were still awake waiting for Kousuke's return.

「I'm back~」(Kousuke)

「Welcome back. You've returned quite late….. Is the child on your back perhaps…」(???)

Douglas's wife was greeting Kousuke and her eyes widened when she saw the child on his back.

「Mm, I managed to rescue him. He is your child, right?」(Kousuke)

As he said that, he turned around and shifted the child to make it easier to see his face.

「Husband! DEEEAR!! Julio is… JULIO'S RETURNED TO US!」(Douglas's wife)

Soon after the wife's yelling, a series of loud banging and running steps could be heard before Douglas appeared at the front door.

「JULIOOO!」(Douglas)

They took their son from Kousuke and cried loudly while tightly hugging Julio.

The slightly late Viare saw this scene and was becoming misty eyed.

After a while, the parents were satisfied and carried Julio to his bed.

「Thank you.. Thank you so much!」(Douglas+Wife)

The husband and wife were bowing deeply toward Kousuke.

「Here's the money I managed to recover」(Kousuke)

Douglas immediately stopped Kousuke.

「Those were originally yours to begin with. Therefore, we cannot accept them. Please use them for your own personal needs」(Douglas)

Since Kousuke rescued Julio, they no longer needed to gather more money. The debt they incurred earlier was mostly paid off, leaving only the interests. They would be able to pay the interests off in three months' time as well. To their benefactor Kousuke, they didn't want him to spoil them any further.

At their persuasion, Kousuke returned the money into his pocket. It's true that the money was something Kousuke earned, but he himself has relinquished his ownership of them so he felt a bit awkward about taking them back.

「You must be tired after tonight. It's also very late so please take a rest」(Douglas)

Douglas, his wife and Viare all tried to persuade Kousuke to rest so he agreed. He didn’t feel too tired himself, but he felt pressured by the three. After cleaning himself a bit, he hopped into bed. In ten minutes, Kousuke was soundly asleep.

During the night, Nagare finished with her report and the kidnappers were captured by the army before dawn. Kousuke would find out about this the next day when he meets Nagare.

ToC

21

W00t!

So I changed “Flow” –> “Nagare”

The reason? Well…. Because I prefer Nagare better >_>;;

Well ENJOY!

Monk

Chapter 21: “The head of the family is waiting in vain”

When dawn came, the Douglas household celebrated their reunion once they woke up. Julio was bewildered finding himself waking up back home, but when he saw his parents’ faces, he forgot all about that and was simply overjoyed.

During breakfast, Julio was introduced to Kousuke and Viare and asked worriedly about what happened to the other kidnapped children. He thought that he was the only one that was saved, but was relieved to hear that everyone else was safe. Seeing his reaction, Kousuke thought『What a nice kid』while Viare was happy to know that her assumption of the parents being good people wasn’t wrong.

「Since everything’s settled now, should we find an inn to stay at?」(Kousuke)
「That’s true. It would be rude if we keep staying here」(Viare)

「I don’t know how long it’ll last, but please stay here until the tournament ends」(Douglas)

When Douglas heard the two’s plan to leave, he immediately stopped them. They were about to leave before he could properly thank them.

「In the near future, one of our companion will arrive. I can't possibly ask you to allow another to stay here. That's why, we'll find an inn today before…. Ah!」(Kousuke)「What's wrong Kousuke-san?」(Viare)

Viare tilted her head at Kousuke who stopped mid-sentence.

「We might need to stay here until tomorrow」(Kousuke)

「We personally do not mind that, but is there a special reason?」(Douglas)

「The person I was cooperating with during the rescue is coming here」(Kousuke)「So it wasn't just Watase-san who was attempting the rescue. We have to thank that person as well. Could you tell me more about the details?」(Douglas)

Kousuke explained everything that happened after he separated from Douglas that night.

The wife took Julio out to go shopping to give them some privacy and to not remind Julio about the kidnapping incident.

Douglas and Viare were furious at the fact that besides Julio, other children were also kidnapped.

When Douglas yelled that they should all be hung, Viare agreed with him and it made Kousuke draw back slightly from their sudden bloodlust.

Around thirty minutes later, the wife and Julio returned right when the conversation ended.

Unlike the parents who had work and chores to handle, Kousuke and Viare were free so they kept Julio company. Of course, it was mostly Viare playing with Julio. Kousuke was just watching the two play Othello from the side.

As the group kept themselves busy, time flew by. Around four o'clock, a voice was heard calling out to Douglas in the store. It was Nagare wearing a violet-blue one piece dress with a white finish on the bottom. It looked like a simplified court dress.

「Yes, yes, with whom do I have the pleasure of meeting? We're currently closed until tomorrow though」(Douglas)「I'm sorry for the intrusion, but I'm not a customer. I was informed that a young man named Kousuke is currently residing here」(Nagare)「Ah, so you must be Nagare-san. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for rescuing my son」(Douglas)

Douglas bowed deeply before calling into the back of the store.

「Watase-san! You have a visitor!」(Douglas)

When Kousuke appeared, he seemed a bit surprised at Nagare's appearance. Viare who tagged along was also staring at Nagare's unfamiliar clothing.

To the arriving Kousuke, Nagare bowed slightly. Her long, untied black hair swayed as she did.

「As promised, I've come to give you our thanks. My master would like to personally reward you. With all due respect, could you accompany me?」(Nagare)「A reward really isn't necessary though. Would it be alright if you tell your master that I've gratefully accepted the thanks?」(Kousuke)

Nagare's countenance became a bit worried at his response.

「My master insisted on meeting you. Are you truly unable to accompany me?」(Nagare)「Must I absolutely go?」(Kousuke)

『Getting involved with big shots always lead to trouble though… I had to enter a domain for Horun and Alice's sake, if I get involved with another big shot.. It'll just make things more difficult』Kousuke thought.**【TL: O.O Kou-chan that sounded pretty mean to those two】**

「To be absolutely honest, I wish for you to come. When I reported to my master, I also mentioned you. My master became very interested with your high capabilities. Master and Shizuku-sama are both inclined to favor strength so naturally they wish to provide you a reward for your efforts first」(Nagare)

Shizuku was the child that Nagare was tasked to rescue before.

「If Kousuke-kun refused to come then my master may personally come after you. If that were to happen, master will definitely try to challenge you and may attack the wrong people. I've given my master a portrait of you so something like that shouldn't happen though」(Nagare) 「Is your master that imprudent?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke's voice was leaking incredible shock.

「Yes, those two parent and child are very hot-blooded when it comes to fighting」(Nagare)

『I should have told her to keep quiet about me…』Thought Kousuke, but it was unlikely that Nagare would not mention Kousuke to her master.

While his impression of Nagare's master was dropping, he decided to keep his evaluation of Nagare on hold. He needed to determine if she threatened him on her own or was ordered to do so.

「As long as I go the others will be safe?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, if any damage were to occur then it would be small. As long as its kept to that level, we'll be able to handle the aftermath」(Nagare) 「As it is, it seems that I should go. Before I accompany you I would like to finish arranging a room at an inn first」(Kousuke)

Kousuke planned to escape once Alice arrives if the situation becomes dangerous, but for now he accepted.

「As long as you come, a slight delay is acceptable」(Nagare)

「Since it's settled, Viare, let's get our things ready. We need to find a place quickly」(Kousuke)

After he consented, Kousuke, Viare, Douglas and his family went back into the house.

Douglas wanted the two to stay a bit longer since they haven't fully returned the two's kindness. However, Kousuke wanted to get a room as soon as possible before all the vacancies were taken due to the tournament. He's uncertain how long it'll be until Alice arrives and it was possible that it may be a while. Depending on the results, he and Viare may be intruding on Douglas and his family for a prolonged amount of time. Kousuke wanted to avoid that. Eventually, it was agreed that they will repay the kindness on another day and Kousuke and Viare left Douglas's home.

「It's the first time the two of us are visiting this city so does Nagare-san know of any reasonable inns?」(Kousuke) 「Yes, I know of a few. The cheaper inns are definitely filled up at this point. Decent inns are most likely close to filling up. If you're looking for a guaranteed room then it will be among the high class inns」(Nagare) 「How much would one night, one person cost?」(Kousuke)

「Let's see… I presume it was around two silver coins」(Nagare)

「TWO SILVER COINS!?」(Viare)

Viare exclaimed loudly. A typical inn would cost around 4 copper coins per night. The price Nagare just indicated was significantly higher than what Viare was used to seeing.

Though not as surprised as Viare, Kousuke was a bit shocked since his only comparison was Shidi's inn.

By the way, the most prominent inns would cost around ten silver coins a night for one person. To put that into perspective, it's around a month's worth of

income for most people used for one night. If the two of them stayed in a place like that, Viare would be most likely faint.

「Ko-ko-ko-kosuke-san!!?? Le-let's avoid a place like that!! O-okay!?」(Viare)

It wasn't a selfish request. Their stay won't be for a night, but likely for several nights. For Viare, the expense would be beyond what she's normally accustomed to.

「If a cheaper inn is still open we'll be staying there you know? If they're all full, we'll just work up the ladder」(Kousuke)

He has ten flash coins so it wasn't a huge deal to him. Even long-term stays were possible. He ruled out camping outside since they have a large fund.

While Viare was praying for a cheap inn to be open, the three headed toward the inns.

Meanwhile, Kousuke learned of yesterday's occurrence after he fell asleep.

「The criminals were a part of an underground organization that traveled from Sebushik to Kalhode. That particular organization was mostly decimated half a year ago. All of their executives are deceased. The one's that were captured yesterday were mostly the underlings, the highest ranked were those that used to directly report to the executives.

Their purpose here was to amass funds to rebuild their organization.

Since they lacked proper leadership, their plans and actions were truly careless. If they had a careful and detailed planner then doing something outlandish such as kidnapping Shizuku-sama wouldn't have occurred. In fact, they had no idea that they kidnapped a Marquis's heir. They were truly shocked to hear Shizuku-sama's identity」(Nagare)「So they never intended to kidnap someone so important since they had to remain obscure」(Kousuke)「I agree. However, since they're unable to create a decent plan, getting apprehended would only be a matter of time」(Nagare)「Hmm, does it mean that their

organization is completely gone now?」(Kousuke)「Actually, there are still others around. When the soldiers were heading to the mansion, they encountered a man that was coincidently checking in on his comrades. That man immediately escaped after seeing the soldiers so it could be concluded that there were others around」(Nagare)「Do you think they'll begin kidnapping in other places?」(Kousuke)

「Possibly」(Nagare)

「Persistent fellas」(Kousuke)

「Truly…」(Nagare)

「Which reminds me, what will happen to the criminals that were captured?」(Kousuke)「For the sake of keeping them quiet, once they gave us the necessary information, they were beheaded」(Nagare)【**TL: HOLY S***!!!**】

『Truly unsettling how light another's life is here…』Kousuke chiseled into his heart.

To him, death penalties were rare and inhumane. However, in this world, it was considered a proper judgment. It prevents the criminals from committing a second offense and deters others from causing troubles.

「Ah, we've almost arrived」(Nagare)

Nagare pointed at an inn.

The three entered the inn. The moment they entered, Kousuke and Nagare guessed that it was no-good.

There were too many people.

Just to make sure, Kousuke spoke with someone at the reception and received the expected answer.

「I'm terribly sorry. We currently have no vacancies」(Receptionist)

「I see. A pity. Hmm.. Do you know if there are any vacant inns around here?」(Kousuke)「Let's see… Other inns like this that are aimed for adventurers or simple travelers are most likely full at this point. Even if they seem empty, their vacant rooms are likely to be reserved」(Receptionist)「Thank you very much」(Kousuke)

「Sorry for being unable to accommodate you」(Receptionist)

The next three inns the three tried were the same. With each attempt, Viare's complexion became worse.

「It seems that we should prepare ourselves and head to an expensive inn」(Kousuke)「It does seem like that…」(Viare)

Kousuke and Nagare were looking at Viare sympathetically.

「It's that one. Just consider this a once-in-a-lifetime luxury that you deserve」(Nagare)「I think it really might be once-in-a-lifetime」(Viare)

「Isn't that a bit exaggerated?」(Nagare)

「With the income I had as a guild receptionist.. It really isn't exaggerated」(Viare)

In addition, Viare was currently unemployed.

While dragging the dispirited Viare, the three entered the high-class inn.

It was a large, sturdy inn that was not too gaudy or pomp, but it definitely did not look cheap.

The front receptionist, despite seeing Kousuke's commoner-like appearance, did not express disgust. It seemed their training was also on a higher level.

「Welcome. Do you require a room?」(Receptionist)

「Yes. Do you have any vacancies?」(Kousuke)

「Yes. We currently have some vacancies」(Receptionist)

「Could we reserve three private rooms?」(Kousuke)

He planned on getting a room for Alice as well.

「Would you perhaps be more interested in one of our larger rooms that can accommodate three people?」(Receptionist)「I prefer to have the rooms separated between men and women」(Kousuke)

「That's quite alright. The large room has separated bedrooms」(Receptionist)「Hmm, then that's fine」(Kousuke)

Kousuke was about to ask if that was fine with Viare but stopped. He realized Viare's experience with this is no different from his.

「I'll take the large room please. How much is the lodging?」(Kousuke)

「It will be five silver coins per night. I can discount one silver coin per night if you relinquish the use of the studies, the den, and special services such as a massage. Would you like me to proceed with that?」(Receptionist)「Hmm…. Is it possible to receive that discount and pay the difference when I wish to use them?」(Kousuke)「Yes, that is possible. In that case, you will pay upon using the facility or receiving the service」(Receptionist)「Then let's go with that. I'll take the discount. For now, I'll pay for ten days' worth of lodging」(Kousuke)

He took out two gold coins and gave them to the receptionist.

After confirming they were real, the receptionist gave Kousuke his change.

Prior to receiving the keys, the receptionist explained that the dining area may

be accessed freely between 7 in the morning to 9 in the evening. She also explained the times for the bath.

「Your room number is 202. It is located up those stairs and on the left hand side down the hall」(Receptionist) 「We'll be in your care for some time」(Kousuke)

「We.. We'll be in your care!」(Viare)

Seeing Kousuke and the nervous Viare lower their heads, the receptionist viewed them favorably. The receptionist was a human being before an inn's staff, so she felt happy when she dealt with courteous guests.

「Yes. We shall do our utmost to accommodate your needs」(Receptionist)

The three left the reception and headed to room 202.

『This inn would make for a great souvenir story for Shidi』Thought Kousuke as he observed everything around him as the three walked.

From Viare and Nagare's perspective, Kousuke looked tense and assumed he was nervously glancing around.

「It's quite large and everything seems well kept. The price of five silver coins makes sense」(Kousuke)

Kousuke's experience as a maid allowed him to discern that the inn's level of maintenance of their room was on par with the aristocratic households.

「Is it really alright for us to stay in this room?」(Viare)

Viare couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by the luxurious nature of the room.

Kousuke was used to this so it naturally didn't bother him since his standard of "Luxurious" was the "Royal Suites" back in Japan.

「Everything was already paid for so we'll be staying here for the next ten days」(Kousuke)「It's so different from the orphanage.. I'm worried I won't be able to sleep」(Viare)「If it's just this then shouldn't you be fine? Humans are pretty adaptable creatures」(Kousuke)

He ignored his own inability to fully adapt to this world.

「I have a feeling that getting used to this will be bad. It'll definitely change something in me from this point on」(Viare)「That might be so. Hmm… It's cold?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke wanted a drink of water and grabbed the water jug on the table. He was surprised when he noticed it was actually chilled.

Nagare explained the reason for that.

「Is there a magic formation drawn on the bottom of the water jug? That formation will keep the water jug chilled so you can always enjoy a cup of cold water」(Nagare)「That's convenient. I wonder why other inns don't have this?」(Kousuke)

「That formation only lasts for one day and not everyone can produce them. A magic aptitude of D+ or higher is required. It's very difficult to hire individuals with such a rank」(Nagare)

The inn is expensive because they offer these detailed and uncommon services.

「I see. I've always been making cold water myself so I never knew something like this existed」(Kousuke)「Controlling the water's temperature is something most people cannot do. It seems your magic aptitude is definitely not ordinary

either」(Nagare)

Nagare muttered quietly to keep the other two from hearing, she memo'd in her heart another strength of Kousuke. Her master ordered her to investigate Kousuke's strength as much as possible.

The oblivious Kousuke finished drinking his water and asked Viare a question.

「I'll be heading out soon, but what do you want to do Viare?」(Kousuke)

「I'll come too. It's impossible for me to stay in this room alone right now」(Viare)「Nagare-san, can Viare come along as well?」(Kousuke)

「That's fine. As long as Kousuke-kun comes along, there shouldn't be any issue」(Nagare)

Receiving a favorable reply, Kousuke and Viare dropped off their bags and left the room with Nagare.

With the inn's receptionist's "Have a good day" echoing behind them, the three left the inn.

The moment they stepped outside, Viare sighed heavily. An inn is where one should be able to relax, but she's experiencing relief from leaving the inn. Her perception of a journey became slightly skewed with this experience.

It was planned to head straight to Nagare's master, but Kousuke spotted a blacksmith and decided to drop by.

「Welcome!」(Blacksmith)

An elderly man in his sixties welcomed the three.

While Kousuke approached the blacksmith, Viare and Nagare were checking out the merchandises on the shelves.

「I would like this repaired」(Kousuke)

The man picked up the sheathed sword on the counter and thoroughly examined it.

The sword's weight was unexpectedly heavy and he frowned as he somehow managed to unsheathe the sword. His face became grimmer seeing the condition of the blade.

「Because you didn't get your sword repaired regularly it became like this! Just how long did you use this sword without getting it repaired?」(Blacksmith)「No, the sword's condition was the result of one fight」(Kousuke)

「There's no way it would become like this after one fight…」(Blacksmith)

Attracted by the two's conversation, Nagare inched closer and observed the sword's condition from the side.

「That's in a terrible condition」(Nagare)

「You also think so too, right? It's impossible for this sword, that was built to be sturdy, to become this battered after one fight!」(Blacksmith)「I think so too」(Nagare)

「No, it really was just one fight! I cut a stone sculpture with it! That's why it's condition is like this」(Kousuke)「You cut a sculpture? Are you sure you didn't smash it?」(Nagare)

Nagare questioned and checked for any changes in Kousuke's expression.

「I did cut it」(Kousuke)

Nagare muttered quietly after hearing Kousuke's declaration.

There were many that could shatter rocks with a sword. However, to be able to slice apart a rock.. It was truly a small amount. Brute force alone would not allow someone to achieve that was Nagare's understanding. After all, the household Nagare serves handle various weapons and Nagare has seen the training the household members undergo. However, even if they were considerably skilled, only a handful are capable of completely slicing through a rock without shattering it.

To know one's limit is a good thing! For Nagare, she wasn't able to imagine Kousuke's limit and grew suspicious. He was simply too strong for his age. Nagare wracked her brain, trying to figure out Kousuke's identity. 『Could he be a specially trained spy from another country?』Thought Nagare.

「So you sliced through a rock… If that's the truth then the sword's condition makes sense」(Blacksmith) 「It's really the truth though… Anyways, can you repair this?」(Kousuke)

「I can do it but.. I think it would be faster to just replace it. At this point, even if I repair it, this sword probably won't last a year」(Blacksmith) 「It hasn't even been half a year since I bought this.. To replace it already is a bit…」(Kousuke) 「Half a year? That's absurd!」(Blacksmith)

「I didn't mean to use it so violently. Let's forget about repairing it then. Can you re-forge it into a knife instead?」(Kousuke)

Feeling apprehensive about giving up his first sword, as a compromise, he asked the blacksmith to change it into something that he could still use.

「It'll take some time, you alright with that?」(Blacksmith)

「How long?」(Kousuke)

「Let's see…… Five days, yes as long as I have five days its possible」(Blacksmith) 「Thank you, that will be fine」(Kousuke)

「Sure, leave it to me」(Blacksmith)

「Well then, about buying a new sword. My budget is three flash coins. Do you

have a sword that's sturdier than that one?」(Kousuke)「Just to let you know, getting a sword in a different city would be a better idea if your budget is three flash coins. The highest quality weapon I have for sale is that halberd over there for two flash coins」(Blacksmith)

The blacksmith pointed behind him with his thumb at the halberd decorated on the wall.

The blade of the halberd was well polished with its bright, silvery luster. The handle was scarlet colored with various etchings and embroideries that gave the entire weapon an impossible to compare aura. Without a single speck of dust on it, the diligence in its care was truly apparent.

「Is the quality of the other stores in this city similar to yours?」(Kousuke)「Probably」(Blacksmith)

「If they're the same then I'll buy from here. I'm not up for traveling to another country at the moment」(Kousuke)「Well, I'm fine as long as the things in my store sells. I'll ignore the price and just bring out all the sturdy swords, that alright?」(Blacksmith)「Yes, please」(Kousuke)

「Wait a bit」(Blacksmith)

The blacksmith went into the backroom. Kousuke could hear clanging noises as the blacksmith rummaged for the appropriate weapons.

Fifteen minutes later, the blacksmith came back with two swords.

The first sword was of similar length to his current one while the second sword was a "Long sword" that exceeded the previous sword's length by a meter.

「Both of these are sturdier than your sword. This broadsword was forged using an alloy of Iron and Trest ores. It's also sharper and lighter than your sword. This long sword was forged using an alloy of Trest, Silver Shak and Bramul Steel ores. Its weight is perfect for hacking and slashing. The long sword is definitely sturdier, but its weight is staggering. If you're not confident with your

strength, I would recommend the broadsword」(Blacksmith)【**TL: Watchu SAY!? Kou-chan, swing that shiz**】

「May I try holding the long sword?」(Kousuke)【**TL: YEA! DO IT!**】

The blacksmith nodded and handed the long sword to Kousuke. It was certainly heavier than his previous sword, but that's all it was. It wasn't heavy enough to burden Kousuke.

The blacksmith's eyes widened as Kousuke began to practice his swings with the long sword without shaking.

「I never expected that you could even hold that with those thin arms of yours」(Blacksmith)「May I try holding it as well?」(Nagare)

Seeing Kousuke swinging it lightly, Nagare wanted to confirm if the sword was really heavy or not.

「Sure」(Kousuke)

Kousuke offered the sword to Nagare with both of his hands.

「Heavy!?」(Nagare)

She assumed the sword was around 5kg, but it was closer to 10kg. The discrepancy in the sword's weight almost made Nagare drop it. Expecting something like this to happen, Kousuke calmly took the sword from her.

「Can I buy this?」(Kousuke)

「Seems like you can handle that sword well. The knife and the long sword, the

total will be one flash coin and two gold coins. The long sword's belt is a service」(Blacksmith)

While giving his thanks, Kousuke placed two flash coins onto the counter.

Once he received the long sword set and his change, Kousuke spoke up to confirm something.

「The knife will be ready in five days correct?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Pretty sure he said that before Kou-chan >_>**】

「Yea, I'll finish it by then」(Blacksmith)

Kousuke strapped the newly bought long sword onto his back, called out to Viare and left the three left the store. The blacksmith shouted out "Thank you for your patronage" the moment they stepped outside.

The detour finished, the three finally headed toward the place Nagare's master was staying. The current time was five o'clock in the evening and the streets were busy with people returning from work or perusing for dinner.

ToC

22

Won’t keep you guys here so ENJOY~

Monk

Chapter 22: “The tear that flowed and its impact”

The three who ate up a lot of time with their detour have finally reached the estate Nagare’s master resided in. They operate a dojo in Kohma, the estate before them was a branch dojo.

The atmosphere around this place was clearly different from the surrounding. It looked like a dojo from a historical drama mixed with some unique elements, making it a one-of-a-kind. The sun was setting and the entire place was bathed in scarlet light.

When they passed through the open gate, in front of them was the dojo, to their right was the practice grounds and to their left were the living quarters. The living quarters were separated between the primary and secondary residence. The dojo’s disciples were allocated into the primary residence while the secondary residence would only be used by Nagare’s master and guests.

【TL: Primary residence = You live there most of the time // Secondary residence = Vacation home, summer home, etc】

Nagare was explaining the use of the facilities and the buildings while they passed through the gate.

Seeing everything before him, Kousuke felt that he was seeing something familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. When he was still in Japan, he didn’t live near a “samurai-like” estate. His experience here made him slightly disappointed since it was sort of off the mark.

「I’ll be guiding you two to the guest room in the secondary residence. I’ll be reporting your arrival to my master after you settle in. Please relax in the room for the mean time. Now then, please follow me」(Nagare)

Following Nagare's lead, the three entered the secondary residence.

He took off his shoes and stowed them away into the shoe rack.

『At least this is the same as Japan』Thought Kousuke as he stepped into the wooden paneled hallway.

「So you take off your shoes?」(Viare)

At the front door, Viare was surprised with this unusual manner and hurriedly mimicked Kousuke's action before entering.

「Kousuke-kun seems to be accustomed with this」(Nagare)

「This is a natural thing to do back in my hometown」(Kousuke)

「As expected, your hometown and Kohma are very similar. Oh, you two there, come here for a moment」(Nagare)

She called out to the two nearby female servants and asked them to escort Kousuke and Viare.

Lead by the two servants, Kousuke and Viare approached the guest room. The servants opened the sliding door and urged the two in. Kousuke's expectation of a tatami floor in the guest room was shattered when he saw the wooden floor with a large rug on it. Contrary to Kousuke's belief, since paper was very expensive in this world, the numerous paper sliding doors in this estate would make many consider it an upscale mansion.

The female servants briefly departed and returned with two cups of oolong tea and steamed buns. They bowed once more before leaving the room again.

Kousuke sat down on a cushion and began drinking the tea. Viare didn't touch the tea or snacks and curiously glanced around at the unfamiliar room.

The steamed bun was filled with sweet potato paste and it matched the tea well. It made Kousuke feel at peace.

「Kousuke-san, you look relaxed」(Viare)

「It's because I'm able to enjoy an atmosphere similar to my hometown. Being here makes me feel like I'm back home」(Kousuke)「Why don't you go back once in a while?」(Viare)**【TL: Ouch.. that's a landmine Viare】**

「If I'm able to go home… It's a complicated thing」(Kousuke)

「Were you disowned?」(Viare)**【TL: How'd it jump to THAT!?】**

「Something like that」(Kousuke)

Rather than his parents, it was Earth that "disinherited" Kousuke.

As the two killed time by chatting, they heard footsteps from the hallway and the sliding door suddenly opened. It was Nagare.

「Sorry for making the two of you wait. Please come with me」(Nagare)

Following Nagare's lead, they reached the large room where the family's head resided. Inside, besides the family head, Shizuku and a few others were also seated.

In the furthest back was a man wearing a black ceremonial outfit. He didn't look a year past his forties. His stout build and calm demeanor made him look like he was still in his prime. Shizuku was seated next to the man, wearing a pink ceremonial outfit embroidered with various flower designs. She was seated demurely and both Kousuke and Viare were impressed by her doll-like features.

Everyone in the room suddenly concentrated their eyes onto Kousuke. Their eyes were firmly examining Kousuke and their strict expressions made Kousuke feel slightly uncomfortable.

The inconspicuous Viare suddenly realized that this was a noble's house and slightly regretted her decision to come. Housesit at a luxury inn or come with Kousuke to a noble's house… In the end, both seemed like a terrible choice for her.

Nagare offered the two a seat before moving to Shizuku's side.

Once the head saw Kousuke take a seat, he stared at Kousuke briefly before speaking.

「A pleasure to finally meet you. I'm Rubidashia household's current head, Gen'ou Amasera Rubidashia. I'm the father of Shizuku, the child you helped rescue. For your assistance in rescuing my daughter, you have my deepest gratitude」(Gen'ou)

While giving his thanks, Gen'ou slowly lowered his head. Even though the movement was simple, Kousuke and Viare almost sighed in admiration at how natural it looked.

Those around the head stayed quiet despite seeing him lower his head to a commoner like Kousuke. It made Kousuke feel that this household was quite open-minded.

「For inviting me today, I am truly grateful. As for the thanks, I have gratefully received and accepted it previously from Nagare so please do not mind. Moreover, I also received assistance in the rescue」(Kousuke)

Drawn into the room's atmosphere, Kousuke's tone also became firm and formal.

「Nevertheless, to be able to rescue my daughter without any issues, as a Marquis and as a father, it truly made me joyous. I cannot thank you enough for all of this. Shizuku, please give your thanks as well」(Gen'ou)「Shankyu veri much」(Shizuku)**【TL: She has a lisp】**

Noticing that she bit her lip while speaking, Shizuku blushed slightly and lowered her head.

Kousuke and the rest pretended to not notice. The household somewhat expected her to be unnerved. In fact, even if Gen'ou did the same, everyone

except for Kousuke and Viare wouldn't be surprised. The fact that he has been able to maintain a proper speech was impressive to the rest.

The reason lied in the nature of the Rubidashia's household. The current and previous heads were selected for their talent in fighting so everything else was lacking. No matter how much they were disciplined, much like a curse, the heads were never able to change this nature.

For instance, this family would trip if the floor they're walking on had a slight elevation difference. Even if they see it or were warned about it, they still trip. **【TL: In other words, it's a family of Viares that can swing weapons =O】**

The family's disposition forces them to rely on external assistance for day-to-day activities. Especially for their young ones.

However, not everything is terrible. Due to their unreliability, they do their utmost to assist the each other. The family has never experienced internal strife due to their strong bond.

「You're welcome」(Kousuke)

Kousuked nodded and accepted Shizuku's thanks.

「Now then, I had a small banquet prepared for this occasion, please relax and enjoy」(Gen'ou) 「Thank you very much」(Kousuke)

The servants were definitely stationed right outside this room. The servants near the entrance slid the door open and numerous female servants flowed in bringing in one dish after another. Even entertainment was prepared as a musician immediately came in and began playing.

The trays placed before their eyes were filled small dishes. A vast array of Kohma cuisines were prepared. Just like a Japanese inn, a nabe was prepared as well, still bubbling slightly. The delicious aroma that drifted from the dishes reminded Kousuke of home.【**TL: Nabe**】

Since Kousuke and Viare were technically foreigners, they prepared chopsticks, spoons and forks for them on their trays.

The prayer finished, Gen'ou announced the start of the banquet. Kousuke grabbed the chopsticks without hesitation and began eating the rice.

The rice's steamy aroma, the texture when he bit, the subtle sweetness, the flavor he always wanted again touched his heart deeply. After chewing fifty times he finally swallowed.**【TL: Er.. Author.. WHY!?】**

The quality was lower than Japanese rice, but it was still delicious. Drowning in nostalgia, his rice was finished instantly.

「Oh my, what a wonderful appetite. Rice isn't a native thing here, but I'm glad to see you like it. It was worth bringing that dish out. Also, you're quite familiar with how to use a chopstick!」(Gen'ou)

Gen'ou grinned happily as he spoke.

「Rice is a staple food in my hometown. Chopsticks are mainstream as well. Since it's been such a long time since I've eaten rice, I ended up finishing it quickly. I'm sorry if my manners offended you」(Kousuke)「No, no, those who prepared it would be happy to see that you finished it cleanly. Please, enjoy the other dishes as well」(Gen'ou)

With Gen'ou's urging, Kousuke reached out for a radish cooked in soup. His chopstick never stopped, eating one dish after another.

Gen'ou and the rest were satisfied seeing Kousuke happily eating their country's dishes.

Besides him, Viare was slowly eating the various, unfamiliar dishes. It was an eye-opening experience for her since everything was something she's never eaten before. Gen'ou was enjoying Viare's constantly changing expressions as she ate.

Seeing how concentrated the two were in eating, Gen'ou and his family conversed among themselves to allow those two to enjoy themselves. The topic

was the tournament.

Among them, Shizuku stayed quiet and Nagare assisted her. Her pace was similar to Viare since if she rushed, she would end up dropping the food. Still, there were a few times she dropped her food. Nagare would catch those pieces with a small plate and feed it to Shizuku. Nagare would assist Shizuku happily since Shizuku's unreliability looked extremely cute and adorable to her.

When Kousuke finished eating and placed down his chopsticks, the grinning Gen'ou offered him a large sake bottle.

「How about a drink?」(Gen'ou)

His offer didn't have a shadow of a Marquis behind it, but instead a fatherly demeanor.

「Uh…..」(Kousuke)

Kousuke was at a loss. His experience with drinking was a few beers at most. He didn't have any urges to drink strong alcohol. Kousuke was never drunk before so he was afraid how he would behave if he did get drunk. However, he was also afraid of being rude by declining the head's offer.

In the end, he accepted a little hoping that he would get away with just a slight buzz.

「I'm not accustomed to drinking so just a little please」(Kousuke)

Kousuke grabbed the sake cup on his tray and offered it.

「Do you dislike sake?」(Gen'ou)

Gen’ou asked while pouring.

「That’s not it, I have yet to reach the legal age to drink so I’ve never drank a lot before」(Kousuke) 「Is that so. In our house, anyone who’s fifteen or older are allowed to drink. I offered without thinking, please accept my apology」(Gen’ou) 「Please, do not worry about it」(Kousuke)

Kousuke drank the cup clean. The sensation when the sake flowed into his mouth was surprisingly not strong. It tasted close to water with a refreshing, sweet aftertaste. It was unexpectedly easy to drink. The alcohol content of the sake was low, but it was easy to get drunk off of since it’s easy to drink. It’s that kind of sake.

「Delicious…. I think」(Kousuke)

A clumsy comment came out of his mouth. Gen’ou didn’t mind the comment and offered him another cup.

「Hmmm, may I get another cup?」(Kousuke)【**TL: Nooo my pure Kou-chan, becoming an alcoholic!**】

「I’m relieved it’s to your liking. It’s among our top five sakes we have in our country」(Gen’ou)

The moment Kousuke’s cup was about to reach his mouth, he stopped. It was because he noticed Viare staring at him. Specifically, she was staring curiously at his sake cup.

「Viare, do you want to drink some?」(Kousuke)

「Eh? Ah.. I just want to try it because I want to know how it tastes? Something

like that? I've never drank before so maybe I shouldn't? But.. Maybe just a little then?」(Viare)「So?」(Kousuke)

「……. I want to drink a bit」(Viare)

She had her head lowered as she answered in a quiet, shy voice.

『She's like a cute, little animal』Thought Kousuke before he looked over at Gen'ou.

「Would it be alright if she can have a taste?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke asked with an underlying implication in his tone.

Gen'ou, understanding that he was worried Viare might get hungover, nodded that it will be fine.

「Miss, please give me your sake cup」(Gen'ou)

「Please no! I'll pour it myself!」(Viare)

Those words were her was to refrain a noble from pouring her a drink.

Gen'ou, understanding this, smiled to ease her tension.

「You do not have to be so tense. I consider it a perk to be able to pour a drink for a cute young lady」(Gen'ou)**【TL: Oh my~】**

His flattery was said in a friendly, calm manner so Viare ended up blushing.

She took a sip of the sake and her eyes widened in surprise.

「…… It's easy to drink」(Viare)

Gen’ou smiled seeing that she enjoyed it.

Kousuke had his cup refilled and took the bottle from Gen’ou to offer him a cup as well. The three were slowly enjoying the taste of the sake.

Shizuku finished eating and went to Gen’ou’s side. By then, the three finished the entire bottle. Shizuku was staring at Kousuke with her big, round eyes. Her eyes were reflecting great curiosity.

「Is there something you would like?」(Kousuke)

「Are you strong?」(Shizuku)

The family’s strong talent in combat ingrained their personality deeply with the urge to find strong people.

After hearing Nagare’s report about Kousuke, Shizuku couldn’t help but find out. Her curiosity was provoked intentionally by Nagare. When Nagare reported about Kousuke, she kept the information about his strength ambiguous. Nagare and Gen’ou concluded that if a child like Shizuku asked instead, it would lower Kousuke’s vigilance.

It seemed to work since Kousuke was about to answer Shizuku’s question. However, Viare immediately stopped Kousuke and spoke in his stead.

「He’sh shwong. He can beats duh shwongess monshterr in mai regiun.. and entered a domain, compreeted hish tash and came back shafly~」(Viare)【**TL: Yea.. her entire speech was slurred** 】

「Houu…」(Gen’ou)

At Viare’s words, Gen’ou’s eyes were glittering with strong interest. His suppressed interest could no longer be contained.

Feeling even more pleased with his response, Viare continued.

「Alshoo~ Koshukeh ish a……」(Viare)

Kousuke immediately pressed his hand over Viare's mouth. His body moved involuntarily since he had a bad feeling.

His judgment was correct since Viare was about to say he's a Dragonslayer.

Gen'ou and the others were shocked at Kousuke's action, but he didn't notice them since he was glaring at Viare.

「…. Are you drunk?」(Kousuke)

「I nevar drank beeforr.. What'sh it like to beeee druuunk~~ I feeeeel fwuffeee~~」(Viare) 「I think that means you're drunk」(Kousuke)

Kousuke guessed he was right seeing how flushed her cheeks were as well as her odd articulation.

「Is it because it was her first time drinking… Or is she just a light weight? For the meantime, Viare, you should lie down」(Kousuke) 「Okaaaaay~ I taik nap nao~」(Viare)

While saying that, Viare ended up plopping her head down onto Kousuke's lap. In her delirious state, she remembered how her father would give her a lap pillow and ended up stealing Kousuke's lap.

As long as she didn't say anything unnecessary, Kousuke left Viare alone on his lap for the meantime.

「What was the miss trying to say just now?」(Gen'ou)

「Ah…. that's a secret. Well, let's leave it as myself being relatively strong」

(Kousuke)「I guess it would be unreasonable to force you to answer that. Then would it be alright if we can have one bout? To tell you the truth, after Nagare gave me her report.. I've been itching to have a bout with you」(Gen'ou)「Like a spar?」(Kousuke)

「Mhmm」(Gen'ou)

While considering how to answer, Kousuke's arm was pulled by Shizuku.

When he turned over to her, his eyes met her shining, begging eyes.

「Me too」(Shizuku)

Kousuke muttered in his head『Battle junkies.. This father and daughter..』

「……..That's fine. As long as it's only one bout each with the head and the young miss」(Kousuke)

He figured he might learn something fighting against a dojo's head. He agreed to fight with Shizuku because he thought it wouldn't be too difficult.**【TL: I get the feeling.. She's scarier than Gen'ou】**

Incidentally, Kousuke accepted a bout with Gen'ou with a similar feeling. He thought they would go easy on him, but he underestimated the battle junkie pair.

「OOOOO! Then tomorrow morning! After breakfast!」(Gen'ou)

「I don't mind that」(Kousuke)

「I'm looking forward to it, father!」(Shizuku)

「Me too!」(Gen'ou)

Both Gen'ou and Shizuku had a joyous expression. Kousuke felt that those two

were extremely close.

The cheerful promise brightened up the rest in the room and the banquet became even livelier.

The banquet slowly calmed down and ended in around an hour.

「Viare, we're going back to our room」(Kousuke)

He shook Viare lightly to wake her up.

She was no longer drunk and woke up to her normal self.【**TL: Viare.. you were sleeping on his lap! Why you no react to dat!**】

「When you return to the room, someone will pick you up for a bath so relax until then」(Gen'ou)

When Kousuke and Viare were about to leave, Gen'ou advised them loudly.

The two gave their thanks and returned to their room. The room only had one futon laid with the next room having the same thing.

「It's fine if I sleep over in that room right?」(Viare)

「I think so. Sleeping together in one futon is a bit…」(Kousuke)

As if she imagined the two sleeping together, she blushed brightly and lightly smacked Kousuke's back before moving her luggage into the other room.

And a few moments later, two female servants came to lead them to the bath.

The baths were separated by gender and was built in a large fashion to accommodate their numerous disciples. Its breadth was around 7-8 meters. At the moment, Kousuke was able to hog up the entire bath for himself and was soaking in a very luxurious sensation.

He thoroughly enjoyed the bath for more than thirty minutes. The moment

Kousuke returned to his room, Viare returned as well in her pajamas.

Her appearance was a bit erotic so he shifted his eyes away. Viare was oblivious to Kousuke's reaction and took out some skincare products to cleanse her face.

The two conversed a bit before deciding to head to bead.

The two said "good night" to each other before closing the sliding door. Kousuke's consciousness slowly faded as he vaguely sensed Viare's presence in the adjoined room. Soon, he fell into a deep sleep.

When Viare noticed Kousuke's breathing becoming even, she hurriedly enter her futon to sleep.

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The alarm clock beside his head began ringing, indicating that it was morning.

Kousuke reached his hand out of the futon and stopped the alarm.

「Mmmmmmm~~!」(Kousuke)

He raised his arms and stretched his body to remove the rest of his grogginess.

He glanced at the clock to check the time, went to the curtain and opened it to see the morning weather.

「A splendid, cloud-less day. It'll probably get a bit hot in the afternoon」(Kousuke)

He left his room without changing, washed his face in the bathroom and went down to the living room.

「Goo~Mornin」(Kousuke)

Already finished with breakfast, he greeted his father who was watching the
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news and his mother who was washing the dishes.

「Good morning. The two of us already ate so Kousuke should quickly eat as well」(Mother)「Right-o」(Kousuke)

On the dining table was a bowl of radish miso soup, fried egg and some roasted sausages. As soon as he took a seat, a bowl of rice was placed in front of him.

After saying “Itadakimasu”, he ate incredibly fast.【**TL: Itadakimasu = It’s an expression of gratitude before a meal**】

「You should chew your food well」(Mother)

He nodded without listening to his mother’s words and continued to vacuum the food into his mouth.

He finished in five minutes, said “Gochisousama” and quickly got up.【**TL: Gochisousama = Thank you for the meal/treat**】

He still had some time before he had to leave for school so he sat next to his father to watch some TV.

「Anything interesting happen these days?」(Kousuke)

「There was an insane fan that couldn’t handle it when his baseball team lost and it escalated into a mob fight between fans」(Father)「Was anyone injured?」(Kousuke)

「Most of them only had minor injuries. They were hitting each other with rolled up newspapers」(Father)【**TL: I think my fist would have worked better**】

「What a peaceful fight」(Kousuke)

「It was」(Father)

After twenty minutes of watching TV with his father, Kousuke got up to get ready.

He brushed his teeth, went back to his room, and made sure he didn't forget anything after changing.

He grabbed his bag and said farewell to his parents before he reached the front door.

「I'm heading out now」(Kousuke)

He turned around and yelled out to his parents once more before leaving.

The scene outside in front of him wasn't his neighborhood, but a sea of trees.

Shocked at the scene before him, Kousuke immediately turned around to find his home.

His peaceful home was no longer there… The sea of trees around him was slowly fading away then he suddenly woke up.

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「….. A dream… so it was a dream……」(Kousuke)

『No wonder the miso soup I had in the dream tasted like the one from last night…』Thought Kousuke as he stared blankly at the ceiling, trying to recall the details of the dream.

『I guess I'm a bit homesick after seeing so many familiar things…』Thought Kousuke as he stood up slowly.

At that moment, the sliding door to the adjoined room gently opened.

「So you're awake」(Viare)
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Viare, who was awake first, thought it was time to wake up Kousuke so she entered his room.

When she looked at Kousuke's face, she placed her hand against her mouth as her eyes widened. She was completely shocked at what she was seeing.

「What's wrong?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke tilted his head slightly at her weird reaction.

「…… Were you crying?」(Viare)

「Crying?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke tapped around his eyes. A wet sensation was transmitted to his fingertip.

Kousuke was surprised to learn that the dream was nostalgic enough to make him cry. Simultaneously, he was shocked to learn how mentally frail he was at the moment.

「I saw a really nice dream. I guess I cried because of that. It's nothing, don't worry about it alright?」(Kousuke)

He halfheartedly waved his hand around, half deceiving himself and half trying to keep Viare calm.

「Is… That so…」(Viare)

Viare answered with a face lost in thought as she slowly closed the door.

The sight of Kousuke crying had a strong impact on Viare.

Until now, Viare had always assumed Kousuke was a superman. Therefore, she always thought that he could do anything and asked him for help a lot.

He has never failed at anything so she had always assumed that him doubting or crying over anything would never happen.

However, seeing his tears in person, she realized just how wrong she was.

The Kousuke that always felt distant was actually another human being like herself, who has troubles and suffers normally.

Viare's assumption that Kousuke was a superman was due a few haphazard information.

She only knew that Kousuke somehow became a Dragonslayer. What she doesn't know that he was transported here from another world and when he became a Dragonslayer, he was placed into a near-death state.

If she knew everything, though he's a bit special, he's just an ordinary person that has a lot of power. Conversely, if she didn't know anything about him then he would have just seemed like someone with a lot of power.

Since she only knew a part of the whole story, this misunderstanding sprouted.

Though she still doesn't know the whole story, at the very least, the belief that Kousuke's a superman was broken.

Viare made a decision then.

If our current relationship of myself constantly relying on you continues, I'll just be a burden.

I have to stop spoiling myself with your help! I will grow to get rid of my clumsiness myself!

She vowed with both hands gripped tightly over her chest.

Kousuke, who had no idea what Viare was doing, changed his clothes and left his room to wash his face.

On his way to the bathroom, a servant informed him that breakfast would be delivered to his room soon so he quickly washed his face and returned.

When he opened the sliding door to his room, he noticed the futon was cleaned and a tray with breakfast was left. Viare's portion was what she normally eats in this country.

When Viare was getting dressed, a servant asked her if she would like a Kohma styled breakfast or another so she chose her usual breakfast style.【**TL: Youshoku vs. Washoku (Western-influenced or Japanese cuisine, usually a Bread, egg, sausage vs. rice, miso soup, fish)**】

Most of the disciples in this branch dojo prefered bread during breakfast so they had this option. The Kohma styled meals are offered for the times Gen'ou and the others come.

The servant that returned to retrieve his emptied breakfast tray informed him that the master would like to spar in an hour. Kousuke asked her to tell him that's fine.

「You're going to spar?」(Viare)

「Mhmm. I promised after you fell asleep from the sake」(Kousuke)

「Hmmm… Even though you would normally refuse something like that」(Viare)

Her face was obviously expressing her surprise at the unexpected promise.

「I think I was a bit drunk then. I thought one or two matches would be fine. That reminds me, do you have any headaches?」(Kousuke)「It doesn't hurt anywhere」(Viare)

「Seems I worried you would be hungover for no reason」(Kousuke)

Considering how drunk she was last night, Kousuke was a bit worried. He even planned on getting medicine for her if she did have a hangover.

「The head seemed very strong, will you be alright?」(Viare)

She knows that Kousuke is strong, but Gen'ou also looked impressively strong. She saw his title with her gift, "Unparalleled Swordmaster". The two's strength were beyond her comprehension, she couldn't help but worry for Kousuke's safety.

「I should be fine. I doubt he'll go all out during a spar」(Kousuke)【**TL: Good job, you jinxed yourself**】

He responded that he would be fine to calm Viare.

The hour flew by as they talked. A servant came by their room to escort them. The sliding door connected to the yard was opened and the cool morning air flowed in.

The two, led by the servant, left for the dojo.

ToC

23

Hiyo~

Sorry for such a late post guys! I'm back on board! Sorta.. fever getting worse

Well, without further ado~

ENJOY!

Chapter 23: "Begin, FIGHT!"

The dojo's surrounding was crowded with 80 disciples, taking up positions to be able to clearly see into the dojo through its windows and entrances.

When they noticed Kousuke approaching, all of their gazes locked onto him. He caught faint whispers of "Is that him?" and "He doesn't look so strong" from the disciples.

It seemed Gen'ou announced to everyone that he will be sparring with a guest today.

Ignoring the gazes and whispers, Kousuke entered the dojo.

Further in the dojo, Kousuke saw Gen'ou and Shizuku with their backs turned, meditating deeply in seiza. Both of them were wearing clothes most karate and judo practitioners wear during practice. From the chatter outside, it was clear the two noticed Kousuke's arrival, but remained still to further heighten their concentration.【**TL: Seiza I can do this for 4 hours before my legs numb ^_^b**】

「Good morning to you both」(Nagare)

Near the parent and child, Nagare stood up and approached Kousuke and Viare.

「Kousuke-kun, are you fine with that outfit? If necessary, I can have a practice-ware prepared for you」(Nagare)

「I'm fine with this since this jacket's pretty tough」(Kousuke)

「Is that so. The weapon for this spar will be made of wood. Master and Shizuku-sama will be using the same weapon, a wooden sword. Please select the weapon best suited to your taste from the rack on the wall. The only rule, do not kill. We can treat light injuries and fractures, but please hold back to a degree to prevent the possibility of a serious injury」(Nagare)

「I'm not accustomed to holding back though」(Kousuke)

「I will immediately stop the fight if I deem it too dangerous」(Nagare)

「I understand」(Kousuke)

「Do you have any questions?」(Nagare)

「What are the win/loss conditions?」(Kousuke)

「Until it is clear who has won, otherwise please continue the fight until the other is unable to continue」(Nagare)

Kousuke nodded and headed to the weapon rack.

「Viare-san, please stay by my side. Pieces of wood might fly out from their weapon during the spar. Well, it doesn't happen often, but just in case」(Nagare)

The Amasera Dojo's wooden weapons are built with extremely durable wood. Furthermore, they're coated with something similar to lacquer.

Never has there been an incident of their wooden weapons breaking during a spar. The weapons are inspected every five days and those that are brittle are used as firewood and replaced.

「Please be at ease, I'll protect you if that were to happen」(Nagare)

「I thank you in advance」(Viare)

Viare, who is aware that she is incapable of dodging, lowered her head.

While listening to their conversation, Kousuke was inspecting each wooden sword to find one that was the easiest to handle.

『There aren't any wooden katanas…. I can't find a glimpse of a bamboo sword either… Maybe this world doesn't have anything like a katana』(Kousuke)

While thinking such things, he reached for the heaviest wooden sword. He simply felt uncomfortable with anything lightweight.

Seeing that Kousuke selected his weapon, Nagare called out to Gen'ou and Shizuku.

「The preparation is complete. Let us begin the match」(Nagare)

「Mm」(Gen'ou)

With a nod, Gen'ou stood up. Shizuku, who stood up at the same time, walked to Nagare's side.

Kousuke and Gen'ou walked to the center of the dojo and faced each other.

「My best regards」(Kousuke)

「Likewise」(Gen'ou)

The two gave each other a slight bow and awaited the signal to start.

Nagare's raised arm flowed down gently while announcing "Begin".

The spar began quietly.

Gen'ou gripped his wooden sword with his right hand and took a seigan stance. At that moment, Kousuke thought he felt a breeze blow past him. The pressure Gen'ou emitted seemingly had a life of its own. It was completely unlike the rigid, lordly atmosphere he showed yesterday. The Gen'ou before him only had fighting in his mind. Seeing his stance, Kousuke felt like he was staring at a stalwart tree, a natural fortress that towered over him.【**TL: "Kata-te no Seigan no Kamae" or "One-handed Seigan stance" Link to example**】

On the other hand, the wooden sword in Kousuke's right hand was dangling slovenly by his side. He gave off nothing close to an intimidating pressure or aura. Among the audience that were not strong enough to understand underestimated Kousuke due to this. The rest were amazed to see Kousuke unmoved by Gen'ou's aura and compared him to a willow tree, parrying and evading the harsh wind.【**TL: Fun fact, Willow trees are great for windbreaking**】

Ten seconds passed, twenty seconds passed, but neither moved from their spot.

Kousuke intended to counter Gen'ou's attacks, intensively observing his every movement. For Gen'ou, he noticed his entire being was being monitored by Kousuke and could not move carelessly. If he was only being watched then it wouldn't have been a problem, but every time he intended to attack, Kousuke would react, effectively sealing his attempts.

The moment Gen'ou wanted to move, he's stopped, this was repeated ten times and three minutes flew by.

This quiet offense and defense was noticed by some, unnoticed by some, regardless, no one was able to say anything due to the tension.

『This situation can't be held…』(Gen'ou)

When his eleventh attempt was thwarted, he resolved himself to go through with his next attempt. Gen'ou determined that Kousuke was strong and felt it would be a waste if he didn't enjoy this fight.

「UOOOOOOOOOOO!」(Gen’ou)

With great spirit he shouted, stomping off strongly toward Kousuke while swinging his wooden sword down.

A split second after his stomp resounded through the dojo, a loud, clashing sound of wooden swords exploded.

Gen’ou grinned happily when he saw his swing, that was strong enough to pulverize a boulder, was blocked easily by Kousuke.

The disciples instantly changed their view of Kousuke’s strength seeing this. If they tried to block in the same way, they easily imagined themselves smashed onto the floor.

With the long sword incident before, Nagare knew that the possibility of Kousuke successfully blocking Gen’ou’s attack was high so she was not surprised.

Shizuku’s eyes were shining brightly at this scene. She was unable to suppress her excitement and was praying for her turn to come faster.

Numerous clashing sounds echoed throughout the dojo. Gen’ou was boldly attacking while Kousuke was blocking each and every single strike.

After the hundredth clash, Gen’ou and Kousuke separated.

While collecting himself and organizing his breathing, he stared at Kousuke. He showed no signs of fatigue was unchangingly staring at Gen’ou.

Gen’ou dropped his right arm and coaxed Kousuke to attack with his left hand. A declaration, “Come, nows your turn to attack”.【**TL:** **COME AT ME BRO**】

Understanding his intent, Kousuke brought his right leg back slightly and gripped the wooden sword with both arms pointing backward.【**TL:** **He took this stance up**】

「Here I come!!」(Kousuke)

With a cry, he charged with both legs.

He closed the four meter distance between them in under a breath and swung his wooden sword up.

A sharp, wind-like slash approached Gen'ou.

The loudest clash of the day was heard at that moment. The explosive clash was not of flesh and bone, but once again between two wooden swords. A few moments later, the clattering sound of a wooden sword hitting the floor was heard.

The moment Kousuke charged, Gen'ou felt a dreadful attack approaching, accurately predicted the trajectory of Kousuke's swing and blocked it. Though he successfully blocked that swing, the force that shocked through his wooden sword made it impossible for him to hold on without hurting himself. While withdrawing backward, he released the wooden sword from his hand.

Seeing Gen'ou drop his sword, the entire audience was in an uproar.

Among them was Gen'ou's hearty laugh.

「Kukukukuku…. This is great! It's been so long since I dropped my sword! Fun! This is too fun! I must thank the gods for allowing me to meet someone this strong! I'll give it my all now! Let's enjoy our fight to the fullest!」(Gen'ou)

His excitement peaked to the highest.

The calm, stalwart aura vanished and a violent storm of fighting spirit replaced it.

The disciples were overwhelmed by this rarely seen aura of Gen'ou. Being able to make Gen'ou serious, Kousuke's existence became unfathomable to the disciples.

Viare and Nagare were also overwhelmed by Gen'ou's aura. As for Shizuku, she was staring unblinkingly to not miss a single detail of the fight.

Being smashed with the sudden oppressive aura, Kousuke became dejected. It

was obvious to him that Gen'ou was 100% serious and would not hold back anymore. It made Kousuke want to return to the inn.

However, Gen'ou would clearly not listen or allow him to leave so he continued to focus on the fight.

With everyone's attention gathered, Gen'ou used magic.

「Are you seriously going all out!?」(Nagare)

Nagare shouted in astonishment.

The magic Gen'ou used was a body reinforcement type, commonly used in battlefields. This magic would easily allow the user to kill even with a wooden sword.

This completely disregarded the "No killing" rule. His switch completely flipped, Gen'ou opted to use a lethal method. Nagare moving to stop the fight was an expected outcome.

However, she was unable to stop anything. Cold sweat was streaming down her back. Gen'ou's cold glance toward her completely sealed her from moving. Nagare felt imminent death coming if she continued.

「I, Gen'ou Amasera Rubidashia, come forth!」(Gen'ou)

Gen'ou moved. Just like Kousuke, Gen'ou instantly closed the gap between the two.

Kousuke blocked the incoming horizontal slash.

「You can move! It wouldn't be fun otherwise!」(Gen'ou)

Slash everything apart! Within this kind of atmosphere, Kousuke displayed

unhindered movement that made Gen’ou grin.

Compared to before, Gen’ou’s movement drastically changed. Moreover, not only did his speed increase, he constantly changed his tempo along with mixing in feints. This made it very difficult for Kousuke to perceive his attacks.

In fact, Kousuke has lost sight of Gen’ou’s wooden sword and has already received a few blows to his chest and arms.

「What’s wrong! Your full strength is nothing like this right! Don’t just block, attack me! FIGHT BACK!」(Gen’ou)

Without stopping his relentless attacks, Gen’ou taunted.

『You asked for it then』(Kousuke)

There was barely any pain, but being hit constantly seemed pathetic so Kousuke decided to fight back.

「There!」(Kousuke)

The slight flaw after the reckless swing was not overseen, Kousuke immediately took the offensive.

However, that “flaw” was something Gen’ou intentionally showed to coax Kousuke to attack.

The incoming slash was read by Gen’ou, but he did not block. He was instead wholly devoted to evading. He knew if he tried to block, he would be blown away or smashed into the floor.

The two exchanged dodges and blows for some time. Kousuke’s attacks would occasionally graze Gen’ou, but none were clean hits.

『How can he avoid all of this!?』(Kousuke)

The reason? Kousuke's attacks were too straight forward. His swings were fast and powerful, but that's all it was.

Naturally, Kousuke was using feints as well. However, against Kousuke who was gathering information and experience on the spot, Gen'ou, who has years of experience and is capable of utilizing his senses to the fullest, saw through the shoddy feints instantly. From Kousuke's eyes and arm movements, his stance and steps, various information leaked out of his body which Gen'ou grasped. To Gen'ou, the strength, speed and direction of Kousuke's attacks were simply easy to read.

This spar brought to light the adverse effects of Kousuke constantly fighting weaker opponents. He's been winning due to his extraordinarily high stats, but he's neglected the importance of actually being able to hit his targets. Against those with strength, Kousuke was akin to a wild beast relying on instinct.

In order to land a blow, Kousuke increased the speed of his attacks while sacrificing an acceptable amount of defense. Unfortunately, Gen'ou, who's grasped quite a bit of Kousuke's habits, only received scratches.

Gradually Gen'ou was beginning to counter. Taking an offensive stance was fine with him since he could dodge everything.

The fight between the two was suddenly flipped. Gen'ou was dodging and landing his attacks, while Kousuke ignored the blows and kept swinging.

Completely absorbed in trying to land a clean blow, Kousuke had no idea what the outcome would be. However, for Gen'ou, the outcome was obvious. If this continues, he knew he would lose.

The physical and mental burden of knowing that one hit would end it all was simply immense. Eventually, he'll become too tired and would get hit. The next ten minutes will be in his favor, but if it drags out beyond thirty minutes, Gen'ou was certain it would be unfavorable.

『I do not want to be defeated in such fashion. Before I run out of strength, I will end this match with my most powerful strike!』(Gen'ou)

He decided to use the Rubidashia's hidden art, something only the head of the household is allowed to know.

It was named "God Slayer" to depict its purpose of overthrowing the gods. It was handed down by the ancestors to their descendants over the course of 300 years, in hopes that one day, a descendant would be able to bring out its completed form.

This hidden art did not require magic or an exaggerated stance because all it required was a mere swing of the sword.

It's probably a mistake to say that it's just "a mere swing" though. Available only to the firstborns, this singular strike is imbued with strong intent and fused perfectly with the skills and techniques that were polished through endless years of training.

Though, rather than a hidden art, this strike could be considered the accumulation of the entire Rubidashia heritage.

In that sense, this can also be considered eternally imperfect. Training until death, that is the way of the "Amasera Swordsmanship". Today's best singular strike will not even be comparable to the next days. Even Gen'ou, who is considered the master among masters, is bound by this.

Gen'ou is the most skilled with overhead strikes, but his predecessors, whom had varying preferences, used different swings. Essentially, "God Slayer" has no singular form.

The moment Gen'ou poised his upper body, the pressure in the room suddenly vanished. Everything was being imbued into his wooden sword, not a drop leaked out.

The disciples began to stir, as many of them were unaware of the "God Slayer" hidden art.

「To go to this extent……」(Nagare)

Nagare uttered in amazement. Though she is incapable of using it, she knew what the “God Slayer” hidden art was.

Since Gen’ou was absolutely serious, she gave up on stopping the spar. She instead readied herself for the worst, Kousuke’s death.

Everything was absolutely stilled and hushed in the dojo. The disciples’ eyes were glued onto Gen’ou, while Kousuke tensely awaited the strike to counter. Among the spectators, Shizuku was the most enthralled, her eyes could not stray away from Gen’ou.

Suddenly, Gen’ou moved. Compared to before, his movement was slower and lighter. He was casually walking forward, with only Kousuke understanding the dangers of his unusual steps. Gen’ou approached, casually stepping forward like he was walking through a park. The moment the spectators were aware that Gen’ou moved, he was already near Kousuke.

「EIII!」(Gen’ou)

With a shout, Gen’ou mightily swung down his wooden sword.

Breathing, the amount of force, his movement, the swing’s timing, Gen’ou was convinced everything in his singular strike was perfect.

In response to this sharp swing, Kousuke brought his wooden sword overhead to receive it. One hand on the handle, the other on the back of the blade, he stared at the moment the two swords clashed. Kousuke’s eyes widened immediately. Gen’ou’s wooden sword split his wooden sword into two halves with ease.

『Wha?! I didn’t feel any impact!?』(Kousuke)

Stupefied and flustered, Kousuke immediately shifted into defense.

He crossed his arms in attempts to block the still incoming strike. At this, Gen'ou was surprised. His strike sliced through hardened wood with ease, normally, who would think to take on such a strike with their own body? A slight disturbance arose in Gen'ou's heart seeing Kousuke's actions, weakening "God Slayer's" power.

Feeling a less than expected impact on his jacket sleeve, Kousuke immediately struck Gen'ou's chest with the half-sword he had.

「A hit! I finally landed a hit!」(Kousuke)

Rather than winning or losing, Kousuke rejoiced that he finally landed a hit. Even if it was a fluke, after such a long struggle he felt relieved that it was possible to land a hit on Gen'ou.

The tension in the dojo eased and Gen'ou withdrew his wooden sword.

Sensing that the two will not continue further, Nagare called for the spar to end.

The spectators all exhaled the breath they held from such a tense fight.

「That was an entertaining fight, thank you」(Gen'ou)

The grim look Gen'ou had during the spar was replaced with a satisfied grin. However, Kousuke had a complicated expression. In the end, he only managed to land one hit. He was heavily vexed and mortified by this.

「Is your arm alright? Even if it wasn't at full strength, that strike still had a lot of force behind it」(Gen'ou)

「Hmm……. It’s just a little swollen. I can’t feel any problems with my bones so I think it’ll end with a light bruise」(Kousuke)

「…….. Ho~, quite the sturdy one. Just in case, allow one of our doctors to take a look」(Gen’ou)

Even if it wasn’t at full strength, the remaining force could have pulverized a boulder into dust. Gen’ou was taken aback that the end result was only a light bruise.

Although Kousuke doesn’t seem injured, it was possible he was enduring so Gen’ou offered a medical examination just in case.

Kousuke obediently accepted Gen’ou’s proposal. Immediately, the examination began. The result: No abnormalities.

「To truly be uninjured, this…」(Gen’ou)

Despite being struck severely, Kousuke getting away with minor scratches made it impossible for Gen’ou to hide his shock.

「Well, it’s Shizuku’s turn next, but do you require some rest first?」(Gen’ou)

「Mhmm. It won’t be for that long though」(Kousuke)

「Is ten minutes sufficient?」(Gen’ou)

Kousuke nodded, walked to a wall and sat down leaning against it.

「Here you go」(Viare)

Viare approached and offered a moistened towel.

Kousuke offered his thanks and accepted it. It wasn't enough to cool off his body, but it was refreshing just to wipe off the sweat.

When he noticed a cool breeze hitting him, he realized Viare was fanning with a folding fan.

「Thank you, I appreciate your thoughtfulness」(Kousuke)

「I just imitated Nagare-san」(Viare)

For Gen'ou's sake, Nagare prepared for his respite. Seeing this, Viare felt she should do the same for Kousuke.

Despite her hasty follow-up, it still allowed Kousuke to cool-down and eased his mind for the upcoming spar. After giving his thanks once more, he stood up.

At the center of the dojo, Shizuku was already waiting. Her hair was tied into a single ponytail behind her.

「Please take care of me」(Shizuku)

To the approaching Kousuke, she lowered her head. Kousuke returns the bow and the two face each other. Her childish expression reduced, instead gallantry and dignity sprung forth from her.

Shizuku took up a similar stance as Gen'ou and Kousuke, like before, stood stance-less. Unlike Gen'ou, Shizuku was holding the wooden sword with both hands.

With Nagare's signal, the match began.

Shizuku did not probe and wait like Gen'ou and boldly charged forward. Without pacing herself, she was slamming every ounce of her strength against Kousuke.

Her movements were unlike a child of ten years, they were exceptional. Truly peerless compared to others her age. However, she was far from the level of

Gen'ou and Kousuke was able to cope with her charge. Still, Kousuke refrained from retaliating at full strength, only lightly striking her with his wooden sword when a large opening was shown.

He wasn't playing around. As evidence, his countenance was stern and serious.

He was following her every movement, memorizing the Amasera swordsmanship. He's convinced that if he is able to understand the Amasera swordsmanship, he will be able to land a blow on Gen'ou without a fluke.

It was too difficult to discern when he was fighting Gen'ou as his movements were too sophisticated and overbearing to comprehend. In that respect, Shizuku's swordsmanship was still in the budding process, giving Kousuke the breathing room he needed to observe carefully.

The two exchanged blows for another ten minutes and Shizuku's movements began to dull. Her shoulders were trembling as her breathing roughened, evidently showing that she was close to her limits. Not ignorant of her approaching limit, Shizuku resolved herself to end the spar with one final strike.

Feeling the subtle change in Shizuku, Kousuke distanced himself from her and awaited her final move.

Shizuku gave a thankful gaze toward Kousuke's consideration and took up a stance.

She poised her right leg back and lowered her waist slightly. Gripping both hands onto her wooden sword, she rested it pointing up on her right shoulder.

The spectators were experiencing a deja vu moment. The stance was different, but the change in the room's atmosphere was just like when Gen'ou used "God Slayer".

The most surprised was definitely Gen'ou for Shizuku was never taught anything related to "God Slayer".

He pondered just how did she learn this.

Shizuku comprehended the essence of "God Slayer" from observing Gen'ou earlier. She is also of the same bloodline and upon seeing the awe-inspiring "God Slayer" she instinctively understood that this was something she must attain.

However, she still lacked the technique and experience to truly utilize the “God Slayer”. When Gen’ou used it, he was able to fully imbue his fighting spirit and aura into his weapon. Shizuku, however, was unable to do so. Like that, her immaturity was accentuated heavily. As she is now, her only “passing mark” would be her determination and spirit. Still, she was convinced that she must use this now.

Shizuku took a few deep breaths and regained her composure.

Preparation completed, she took a step forward.

「YAAAAAAAAA!」(Shizuku)

The diagonal slash toward Kousuke’s shoulder was, from Gen’ou’s perspective, filled with numerous flaws but it definitely held the essence of “God Slayer” in it.

“God Slayer”, taught only from the head to the heir, was being displayed by his daughter whom wasn’t taught an inkling of it. Pride filled his chest as a smile appeared on his face.

A sharp, crashing sound resounded throughout the dojo. The two objects that crashed was Shizuku’s wooden sword……. and Kousuke’s left arm.

He abandoned defending with his wooden sword and received her blow with his left arm instead.

Shizuku was too absorbed into unleashing her “God Slayer”, she was unfazed seeing Kousuke using his own body to receive it and did not adjust the force behind it. Still, she lacked training to fully utilize it and the force Kousuke felt was still less than when Gen’ou used it.

「…….」(Kousuke)

「…….」(Shizuku)

Shizuku, who had her wooden sword blocked, and Kousuke, who had received

her strike, were both absolutely still.

Both maintained that position for thirty seconds before Shizuku finally pulled her wooden sword away and stepped back. The two lowered their heads toward each other.

「Whew」(Shizuku)

Reaching her physical limit, Shizuku plopped down onto the floor. Immediately, Nagare appeared besides Shizuku to care for her.

Shizuku's expression was joyous from being able to go all-out in the spar. Despite how tired she was, there was only an aura of satisfaction coming from her.

Gen'ou and Kousuke were both similarly satisfied and joyful.

Kousuke learned a lot from the two bouts. The Amasera swordsmanship's movement from Shizuku and the sophisticated swordplay from Gen'ou. Although he was unable to fully comprehend everything Gen'ou displayed, Kousuke nonetheless had every bit of it memorized.

Therefore, everything was valuable for Kousuke.

「With this, the promise of two bouts was fulfilled, I'll be heading back now. Mind if I borrow the bath? I want to wash off my sweat」(Kousuke)

「I do not mind, but the baths aren't warmed right now」(Gen'ou)

「As long as I can wash myself even cold water is fine」(Kousuke)

「Mm. Please use it freely then. And thank you for today, it was a good experience, for both myself and Shizuku」(Gen'ou)

Kousuke gave Gen'ou a bow before calling out to Viare to leave the dojo. After being shown something so overwhelming, the disciples' opinion of Kousuke was completely reversed from before.

As Gen’ou saw the two off, Nagare appeared beside him.

「What do you think of Kousuke-kun?」(Nagare)

「It’s regrettable」(Gen’ou)

An immediate answer.

「What is regrettable? Could you explain?」(Nagare)

「His ability is by no means lacking. Rather, his foundations are beyond exceptional. He undoubtedly focused on training endurance and physical strength from a very young age. Otherwise the imbalanced nature of his ability cannot be explained」(Gen’ou)【**TL: Kousuke trained in the art of “Human Cannonball” =D**】

Against his high physical ability and tidy appearance, the lack of experience and dull combat instinct felt imbalanced to Gen’ou.【**TL: Tidy appearance = lack of scars basically. He looked too clean to be a warrior/fighter/adventurer etc**】

If Gen’ou knew that it has only been half a year since Kousuke began using a sword, before admiration he would feel amazement and shock.【**TL: If Gen’ou knew that he was a Dragonslayer, he would crap bricks**】

「If I had the chance, it would have been ideal if I trained him. Without a doubt, he would have become a great, no, an absolutely peerless swordsman in history」(Gen’ou)

This high evaluation, not only Shizuku and Nagare, but the nearby disciples that heard Gen’ou were shocked.

They were convinced of Kousuke’s strength with the spars just now, but to be given an evaluation of that magnitude was incredible.

「He's that powerful? It seemed that master held the advantage in the bout though」(Nagare)

「I had the advantage? It may seem so, but most of my attacks had minimal effect. His calm expression never broke despite being barraged with hits. I had the advantage only because it was a spar limited with rules. But.. If it was a death match.. My probability of losing would be high」(Gen'ou)

Hearing this, Nagare's alertness toward Kousuke increased and she decided to monitor him quietly in the future.

「By the way, why did master judge that master cannot train him?」(Nagare)

「Cannot train him? I wouldn't go that far. He is currently still learning on his own, but he's also decided on a combat style. However, if I tried to forcefully train him to use Amasera swordsmanship, what do you think will happen? What I said before, I was just mentioning that I wished I met him earlier. It's truly regrettable that I only met him now」(Gen'ou)

「So self-taught….. It's definitely suitable for surprise attacks. But that won't be reliable all the time, would it not be for his sake if we trained him some legitimate swordsmanship?」(Nagare)

What Nagare was hinting at was something Gen'ou already understood. To that, he shook his head.

「If he was an ordinary man, then yes. Compared to the swordsmanship that was refined over a long period of time, self-taught styles tend to have large, unforeseen flaws. That would normally be a weakness with self-taught swordsmen. However, with his high physical abilities, those flaws could be considered feints instead. Even if he does a wide swing and gets countered, he can shrug it off. In fact, I struck at his opening and was viciously countered

instead. Since it's like that, him furthering his self-taught style is well suited for him」(Gen'ou)

「I see, so that's the case. I have given unneeded advisement」(Nagare)

「It's fine」(Gen'ou)

『There's no need to teach him anything anyways』(Gen'ou)

Gen'ou perceived that Kousuke was learning through his observation of Shizuku. Learning through self-comprehension and experience, it would be more beneficial in the long-run for Kousuke. Gen'ou was convinced that Kousuke's style of learning was well suited for him.

He had no intention of pressuring Kousuke for "stealing" his family's style. It's not like everything was shown to him today. With and without armor, varied terrain combats, there was a myriad of information not unveiled today.

Imagining how Kousuke would grow with what he learned today, Gen'ou's excitement to fight him again began leaking out.

Looking forward to the future fight, Gen'ou's spirit was ignited and shouted for everyone to resume their training.

After washing himself, Kousuke informed the maid he bumped into in the hall that he and Viare would be leaving soon.

The maid asked him to return to his room for the meantime as she would inform the family head and briskly headed toward the dojo.

Kousuke and Viare finished packing up and awaited the maid's return.

After twenty minutes, Shizuku and Nagare entered the room instead.

「To say you're already leaving, it's fine if you stay a bit long you know?」(Nagare)

「We've received quite the hospitality already, we do not want to overstay our welcome. Also, the person we're waiting for should be arriving soon」(Kousuke)

「Oh, I recall you mentioning something like that when we were looking for an inn」(Nagare)

Recalling the events of yesterday, Nagare nodded.

「I understand. I will not hold you back then. At the very least though, please stay for lunch. Master wishes to bid you farewell after that」(Nagare)

「That much is fine」(Kousuke)

Feeling that it wasn't a big deal, Kousuke consented.

「By the way, Shizuku…. -chan? -sama? Ojousama? Why are you here?」(Kousuke)

He asked while being unsure of how to address her. If it was just an invitation to lunch, Shizuku's presence would not be necessary.

「Isn't it a bit unwise calling a noble -chan? However, addressing her as Ojousama is passable」(Viare)

「Yes, as Viare-san stated, Ojousama is acceptable. As to why Shizuku-sama is here… Her training for today was concluded after the morning bout. Since her schedule for the day was opened, she came along in hopes of hearing some stories from you two. Shizuku-sama does not have much opportunity to leave the house and ended up growing up somewhat naive and ignorant of the outside world」(Nagare)

Shizuku hearing some interesting story was a part of it, but Nagare truly wanted more information about Kousuke.

Shizuku originally was only focused on training and held very little interest about everything else. She was constantly surrounded by strong family members and was satisfied with her training environment.

However, after being able to spar with someone strong from outside, it sparked her interest about the outside world, especially strong people.

At Nagare's request, Kousuke and Viare began talking about their day-to-day life as well as some things that happened on their journey.

Shizuku was listening quietly, showing a smile and happily nodding on occasion. It seemed like she was enjoying the stories.

Lunchtime came around quickly and the group moved to the dining room. Since they're leaving immediately after lunch, Kousuke and Viare had their luggage with them.

The lunch was not Kohma cuisine, but of this continent's cuisine. It was absolutely delicious, it was easy to guess that the chefs were fired up with this meal.

When they finished lunch, Kousuke and Viare left the house.

Gen'ou, Shizuku and Nagare saw them out while the disciples, servants and maids were spectating from afar.

「Please come visit when you have the chance. We'll be here for the duration of the tournament」(Gen'ou)

「Is that so. I might come by one more time so that I may spar with Gen'ou-sama again. That is, if I can figure out a way to land a hit on you」(Kousuke)

「I'll look forward to it then」(Gen'ou)

「Let's spar again too!」(Shizuku)

Kousuke nodded back at Shizuku and Gen'ou.

Along with Viare, the two bowed toward Gen'ou's group before turning around to leave.

After three minutes of walking, Viare suddenly sighed as if all her tension vanished. It seemed that she was finally able to relax after leaving a noble's home.

Seeing her like this, Kousuke was lost whether to tell her that they're destination……. was the upper-class inn…… In the end, he didn't mention it. Viare's break was short-lived as her face grimaced and twitched as if recalling a nightmare.

Kousuke was unable to comfort her so he did the only thing he could do. He slowed his pace to delay their arrival as much as possible.【**TL: GANBARE VIARE-CHAN!**】

ToC

24

Hiyo!

Did this in the brief time I had so… it's probably riddled with errors, sorry!

Comment below any mistakes you see

Enjoy!

Monk

Chapter 24: Some battles cannot be won, ever.

In front of Kousuke and Viare's view is the adventurer's guild hall.

After the events at the Amasera dojo, the two leisurely spent a day at their inn and became bored and restless. Therefore, the two decided to head to the guild to alleviate their excess free time.

The scale of this city was much larger in comparison to St. Beria and the guild hall reflected that difference. The tournament being held here in the city may had some effect, but crowd here was also larger.

「You've always came as a tag-along, but is Viare registered as an adventurer?」(Kousuke)「I am. All staff members are required to register」(Viare)

He thought she might need to register, but it seemed it was unnecessary.

Since St. Beria is considered the two's hometown, the guild hall there was aware of their circumstance. Kousuke was the only one accepting requests with Viare coming as a volunteer only. This way, even though they were considered a duo, the reward for completion was only for Kousuke. It wouldn't be sensible to extort more from the clients and they were trusted to not "double-dip". However, this wasn't St. Beria so the two did not have to worry.

【TL: Hometown = Origin of registration】

The guild hall here was unaware of the two's circumstance and Kousuke was worried about Viare's registration status.

「Well then, I guess you don't need to register here」(Kousuke)

The two entered the building and immediately approached the odd-job request board. Since they were only trying to kill some time, they overlooked all the requests that required them to leave the city. Either way, those quick and easy requests that required a light trip out of the city were all taken by the tournament contenders as a warm up preparation.

While staring at the board, Viare nodded once and spoke out what she decided.

「I'll choose something that I should be able to do」(Viare)

「Hm? We're not doing one together?」(Kousuke)

「Mm. I wanted to try going solo for once」(Viare)

If she did a request with Kousuke again she would end up relying on him too much, so she thought. To become more independent she pressured herself to confidently and successfully finish a request on her own.

She was confident in success actually. She intended to take on a similar request she's done in the past with Kousuke. It's better than doing something completely new since she would be likely to succeed and there would be less worries and doubts.

This was her first step to grow as a person.**【TL: Remember Kousuke's dream and tear scene? Yup, that's her motivation】**

Without explaining her real motives, Viare shrouded it by telling Kousuke that she's unable to keep up with the type of requests he takes. Telling him the truth? It was too embarrassing for her.

「This time around we're not in it for the money so I don't mind matching with your pace you know?」(Kousuke) 「You should pick something you like instead of worrying about me. I'm choosing one for myself for a reason」(Viare)

With the way the conversation was going it seemed like he would tag along so she tried to stop him.

「….. Then let's go with what you suggested. I hope we can find something suitable」(Kousuke) 「I hope so too」(Viare)

The two began skimming through the request board.

Kousuke searched for a request that he could learn something new from while Viare searched for an easy-to-complete one.

Viare's eye halted on a singular request.

「I think this one's good」(Viare)

The content of the request was for a nanny. Thanks to the tournament, the time people had to care for their children dwindled so the parents and guardians sought for temporary nannies and babysitters through the guild.

She was used to caring for children since she grew up in an orphanage. It was an excellent first choice for her.

「So you found one already? As for me… I think I'll give this one a shot」(Kousuke)

The request Kousuke pointed out was from a sharpener. Rather than a request to sharpen something, due to the increase in business, the store required an extra helping hand organizing the sales and paperwork. There's no way a professional would allow an amateur take over his or her job just because

they’re busy though. There was also an additional requirement of being able to read and write attached to this request. It was crystal clear that the underlying implication of this was to have some experience in doing menial and routine duties.

The two confirmed the addresses of the requesters and went separate ways in front of the guild hall.

Fifteen minutes later, Kousuke arrived in front of the sharpener’s store.

「Hello~」(Kousuke)

He greeted loudly as he entered, but found only an empty counter in front of him.

The shelf behind the counter was lined up with various blades that looked recently sharpened. It ranged from kitchen knives to swords and spear tips. The fully assembled weapons that were large like the full spear and axes were leaning against the wall beside the shelf.

「No one’s in? Maybe someone’s in the back…」(Kousuke)

Sucking in a deep breath, Kousuke gave a loud shout towards the back of the store.

「HELLOOO!」(Kousuke)【**TL: HI!**】

「Yes!! Coming!」(???)

With a few crashing and clattering sounds coming from the back of the store, a man dressed like a craftsman came out.

「Hey there! I was too focused on my work and didn't notice you coming in. Welcome to my store, Izazaki. Our motto is "Whatever the blade, we'll bring it back to perfection"! How may I help you today?」(???) 「I'm not a customer」(Kousuke)

「Not a customer? Then what business has brought you here? Are you possibly here for an apprenticeship? I'm too busy for that right now, wait until after the tournament's over」(???) 「I'm not here to apply as an apprentice! You requested some assistance through the guild, right? I'm here to fulfill that request」(Kousuke)

The man's expression was blank for an instant before he suddenly clapped his hands, as if recalling something. Seeing his reaction, Kousuke suddenly felt that the request was already fulfilled.

「OH! That request!」(???)

「Was the request already fulfilled?」(Kousuke)

At Kousuke's question, the man rapidly shook his hands in denial.

「No no! It's been a while since I set up the request so I just assumed that there was no one coming anymore. You're a lifesaver! I can finally focus solely on my work with your assistance!」(???) 「So is it safe to assume that I'm hired?」(Kousuke)

「Yup. Come with me behind the counter. I'll explain the details of your work」(???)

At the man's beckoning, Kousuke followed him.【**TL: Yea.. the word used was "beckoning" creepy right?** 】

It wasn't visible from the front, but behind the counter was a table with a pile of paper on it and a small chair tucked under.

「I’m pretty sure it was written on the request, but just to clarify there are two things I need you to do. Handle the customers and organize the paperwork.

As for the paperwork themselves, it’s calculating the revenues earned against the cost incurred. For the past twenty days, none of it has been calculated. Well, the payments and the date they were received were recorded so it shouldn’t be too difficult to figure out.

Have this part finished by tomorrow and that part finished within five days. Everything should be wrapped up by then. Hope you can get up to that done.

I know it wasn’t written as a requirement in the request, but can you do calculations? If it’s too difficult you can just do the first part I pointed out earlier and call it. Even just having that done would help me a lot」(???)「I’ll be fine」(Kousuke)

From his explanation, the most Kousuke needed to know was some basic arithmetic. He nodded to himself that it’ll be a breeze.

「Really? That’s a relief. Alright, next is how to handle the customers. When you accept the commission, please write down their name, the goods received, and the date received.

With regards to returning customers, please confirm their name and match their name to the goods in this shelf here before returning it to them. Everything that’s neither a spear nor an axe will be placed over there. All the finished goods will be labeled with a tag so it should be easy to find. The charges are written on the tags too so make sure you get the money.

If any trouble comes up just yell towards the back of the store, someone will come out to help.

The request is for a week alright? It’ll calm down after a week. I guess.. that’s all for now, any questions?」(???)

After hearing the man’s description of the tasks, Kousuke thought for a moment before speaking up.

「How should I record the monetary units? In Erte? Or should I just directly write copper and silver coins?」(Kousuke)「As long as it's correct, it doesn't matter」(???)【**TL: That's really half assed accounting, it's making me cringe**】

「I'll stick with Erte then. If I have time I'll convert it into coins」(Kousuke)「That's fine. Well then, good luck」(???)

「Ah, one moment. Can I ask for a small favor?」(Kousuke)

「A favor?」(???)

「When you have some time I would like to observe your work and possibly learn the basics for equipment maintenance」(Kousuke)「I don't mind, it'll be during your break time though」(???)

With those words, the man disappeared into the back of the store.

Kousuke glanced around the store once more before psyching himself up.

「Let's take a look at this pile for now」(Kousuke)

Sitting down, Kousuke began rifling through the pile-o-documents.

Quickly counting, there seemed to be around 70 of them. The documents were organized from old to new, but the revenue and expense documents weren't separated.

While splitting up the pile, Kousuke felt a presence at the store's entrance. After placing a paper weight on the documents, he stood up to greet the customer.

「Welcome」(Kousuke)

「AHH!?」(?!?)

The customer gasped in surprise since it seemed as though Kousuke suddenly appeared from behind the counter.

Kousuke tilted his head slightly, exasperated at the customer's reaction, but decided to not pursue it.

「Umm.. I wanted to get my spear you serviced…」(?!?)

「May I know the name it is registered under?」(Kousuke)

「Guinness. Guinness Fracht」(Guinness)

「Mr. Fracht then. Please wait a moment」(Kousuke)

Kousuke glanced at the tags on the three spears and pulled the corresponding one out.

「The balance is 2 silver coins」(Kousuke)

「Is this enough?」(Guinness)

The man placed two silver coins onto the counter.【**TL: Is this enough? He said two and you pulled out two.. OF COURSE IT'S ENOUGH**】

「Yes. Here is your spear」(Kousuke)

「Mm」(Guinness)

The man carefully inspected the spear head and nodded in satisfaction.

「Thanks」(Guinness)

「Thank you for your patronage」(Kousuke)

As Kousuke raised his head, the man was already out the store.【**TL: For those unfamiliar, it's customary to bow to leaving customers in Japan**】

「The money… I guess I place it in this box?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke picked up the two silver coins and tossed them into the box under the counter.

He quickly wrote down the customer's name, the item type serviced and the revenue amount into the journal on the counter. With this, everything related to that customer was recorded and ready to be filed.

While praising himself for a job well done, Kousuke returned to organizing the pile. He began his bookkeeping with the documents that were separated between expenses and revenue, with the oldest on top.

「I wish I had an electronic calculator…」(Kousuke)

Even if the calculations were simple, the sheer volume of it was daunting. Considering the fact that he needed to double check afterwards, Kousuke started to crave for a calculator.

Despite his initial whining, Kousuke was slowly increasing his work pace. Compared to his original life on Earth, his current mental aptitude was abnormally high and even if he works leisurely, the originally five days' worth of work felt like a day's worth instead.

While handling the occasional customers and the documents, night came. Physically and mentally he felt no fatigue since the workload was very simple.

During the times a difficult customer came, another store employee took over so he didn't have to struggle.

「I’m closing up so you’re done for the day」(???)

The man from the back called out to Kousuke who was seemingly having a staring contest with the documents. The two spoke a bit during lunch break and Kousuke found out that the man is apparently called Corundum.【**TL: Raw is literally コランダム (Ko-ra-un-da-mu) LOL**】

During their lunch break conversation, Kousuke learned some basics on maintaining his sword.

He found out that various types of whetstones needed to be used when sharpening weapons.

Even blades that could be considered works of art, even if the process can be considered only slightly complicated, the use of just one type of whetstone was far from enough.

From the beginning Kousuke knew this, but he was a bit dissatisfied finding out that he’s not capable enough currently to completely self-maintain his weapons. Possibly after a month’s worth of arduous study and training he might be able to. However, this was almost impossible since none of the craftsmen have time to solely train Kousuke.

Understanding his circumstance, during his employment here Kousuke felt that it would be most satisfactory if he could learn how to check for abnormalities in his weapons as well as attain some knowledge on how to clean and properly oil his weapons.

「Mnnnn!」(Kousuke)【**TL: He’s stretching**】

Kousuke stretched out his body, placed the documents down and stood up.

「Around what time should I come in tomorrow?」(Kousuke)

「Before the two bell tolls」(Corundum)

In this city, the first bell signifies 6 in the morning while the two rings signify 9 in the morning.

「Got it. Well then, I'll head out for the day」(Kousuke)

「Thank you for today」(Corundum)

Even after closing the store, the staff continued working and Corundum scurried back into the back room.

Upon leaving, Kousuke noticed a myriad of people, who similarly just finished working, walking around the street.

Blending into the crowd, Kousuke returned back to the inn. When he opened the room's door he saw Viare, who finished work earlier, fiddling with her identification card.

「Oh, Welcome home~」(Viare)

「Thanks. You finished first, I see」(Kousuke)

「Mm. They didn't need me to stay until closing」(Viare)

The request Viare took up only required her to assist with handling the children during the peak hours.

Even if she stayed until the end, it's restricted to 8PM. Part-timers like Viare are ideal for employers with a tight budget since getting any full-timer was unfeasible for them currently.

While waiting for dinner time, the two discussed each other's day.

For the allotted time contracted by the request, Kousuke dutifully completed his tasks without issue.

He earned three silver coins and as an added bonus, a few whetstones for knives. Unfortunately, the whetstones were only useful for knives used in cooking and skinning that are easy to maintain and sharpen. He also managed to get some practice with weapon maintenance and sharpening so it could be said that he earned more than the stated reward.

As for Viare, since she was motivated and the work involved was what she was experienced in, no big problems came up. It wasn't completely trouble-less though as she was caught up in some turmoil involving a merchant's inheritance, but the person herself never seemed to notice this.【**TL: Typical Viare…**】

Unlike Kousuke, Viare's request required her to work daily and lacked a specified end-date so it was decided that even if it exceeded Kousuke's request's timeframe that both of them would continue working.

While Kousuke and Viare were leisurely going on day-by-day, Alice was finishing up her task in Ricardo.

「Well then, let's proceed with what we agreed upon」(Alice)

「Understood, please leave this to me」(???)

The person sitting across from Alice is the contracted architect.

「May I know the estimated completion time?」(Alice)

「Let's see……. It's not as large as a noble's mansion, but definitely larger than a commoner's home.. so around half a year I suppose」(Architect) 「The same as before I see, I understand. Thank you in advance for this」(Alice)

The new home Alice wanted constructed was an apartment capable of housing around four families. With sturdiness as the highest priority combined with the size of the home, the price was definitely high but Alice still had more than enough funds left after selling off a dragon scale.

The scale was sold through and old acquaintance of Alice, the Guildmaster of Ricardo's Adventurer's Guild. Before she left for Vesamika a month ago, Alice passed him the dragon scale. The Guildmaster knew someone that was interested in purchasing a dragon scale so it was convenient for Alice to sell it through him.

The dragon scale was purchased for over a hundred flash coins. The preparation of such a vast fortune took some time so she finally received it earlier today. Using the reward money received from the ancient clan, combined with the profits earned from the dragon scale, the commission for the house was immediately funded to the point of exaggeration.

Coincidentally, the two met because the Guildmaster wanted to pass a letter to Alice.

The sender of the letter: *Alice from the past*.

The contents of the letter was brief, just one sentence, but with that one sentence, Alice was able to recall an incredibly important memory.

However, that's a story for another time.

「The construction site is still the previously selected suburban area correct?」(Architect)「Yes. Once it's complete, I'll shrink and carry it away with magic」(Alice)**【TL: I want this ability… just imagine all the por.. I mean books I can carry with this】**

「Lastly, please confirm that there are no issues with the contract here」(Architect)

Alice began reading the contents of the contract.

Scrutinizing every detail, she confirmed there were no errors and returned the contract.

「Since everything is settled for today, I'll take my leave. I'll take a look at the progress in around three months' time」(Alice)「Thank you. I look forward to our next meeting」(Architect)

The man bowed deeply towards Alice as she left the store.

「I guess I have nothing left to do in Ricardo」(Alice)

Standing outside the architect's office, Alice nodded to herself as she confirmed the tasks at hand.

「Now then, time to head to where Kousuke and Viare are」(Alice)

After heading out of Ricardo, Alice casted the teleportation spell twice before arriving at the borders of Rezotikumog.

Since the distance was too long, she couldn't teleport there in one shot. The requirements were simply too high so the only beings that were currently capable of instant teleportation anywhere in one go were gods and certain spiritual beings. Alice has the potential, if she solely trains her magic for twenty years through harsh combat. Despite being slightly tempted, Alice shrugged slightly and tried to content herself with her current abilities.**【TL: Sounds like a pointless paragraph right? It probably is…】**

「Hmm, now where are those two right now…」(Alice)

Spreading out her detection magic, Alice began searching throughout the city for Kousuke and Viare. To put it simply, the magic is just like a sonar, emitting a magical pulse out to grasp the position of familiar auras. Since it's used to find specified targets, the effective range was quite large, roughly a week's worth of walking distance.

「Hmm? This aura is…」(Alice)

Alice glanced away from the city the moment she picked up a different aura. She ended up detecting Borudosu's aura outside the city as well.

He and his group was around six days away from the city.

「Maybe I should drop by a bit later」(Alice)

Glancing towards Borudosu's direction once more, Alice turned around and headed into the city.

Standing in front of a store, Alice spread the detection magic once more before entering.

「Welco… Wait ALICE!?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke exclaimed loudly suddenly seeing Alice.

「Have you been doing well?」(Alice)

「I'm fine, I'm fine, but how did you find me here?」(Kousuke)

「I have a magic for finding people. It seems like you're currently working」(Alice)「Yea. I had some time before the tournament so I figured I might as well work a bit」(Kousuke)【**TL: He wanted to watch, not participate**】

「I see. I'm sure I'll be a bother if I continue talking here. Can you tell me which inn you're staying at? I'll wait for you there」(Alice)

Kousuke nodded and explained the inn's name and location to Alice.

「If my memory serves me, that's a high-class inn, is it not?」(Alice)

「That's right. The other inns were pretty much filled so we ended up there」

(Kousuke)「Do you have any money left? Were you two just barely holding out until I arrived?」(Alice)

Recalling the dismal state of Kousuke and Viare's finance, Alice couldn't help but worry .

「Are you working because you need money for the inn?」(Alice)

「Nope, it's really just to kill some time. I have enough money for the inn too. I was able to earn ten flash coins earlier」(Kousuke)「Wait just a moment, it's not neither easy nor simple to earn a fortune of ten flash coins. What exactly did you two do while I wasn't around? ….. Never mind, just tell me later」(Alice)

Hearing his sudden fortune, Alice felt cold sweat trickle down her back. She really wanted to interrogate him, but she reconsidered. She didn't want to cause a disturbance in a public location.

「I'll head to the inn now」(Alice)

「Su.. sure…. I'm pretty sure Viare should be there already」(Kousuke)

「I see. I'll just talk with Viare about this then. I'm looking forward to finding out what *exactly* you did to get that money」(Alice)**【TL: I felt cold sweat reading this…】**

Alice was smiling *brightly*, but it thoroughly rattled Kousuke. Even if it wasn't directed at them, a few of the other customers nearby felt the chills.

Alice left and Kousuke felt his courage waning as the store was about to close. However, time couldn't be stopped and the day eventually came to an end. Kousuke got up to leave, but felt only increasing dread in his heart.

Today was the last day of the request, but he couldn't feel anything positive at the moment. The other employees could only confusedly stare at Kousuke's unusual behavior.

「I'm back….」(Kousuke)

Kousuke unintentionally muttered his return as he opened the door, only to see the *smiling* Alice in the room. Behind her was a cowering Viare.【**TL: I never want to meet someone like Alice….**】

「Welcome back, it seems that you were *veeery* busy in my absence」(Alice)

Hearing her emotion-less words, Kousuke backed slightly.

「Umm.. which part are you talking about?」(Kousuke)

「Let's see, how about when you invented a new game.. AND when you somehow became acquainted with the Rubidashia household」(Alice)「…… You're going to ignore the kidnapping part?」(Kousuke)

「You're an adventurer, such occurrences aren't uncommon in that line of work. I have nothing to say about your sleuthing and *heroic* activities.

Two problems…. One, your actions were very pronounced. Two, **Your. Actions. Were. Very. Pronounced.** Definitely two problems, you agree right?」(Alice) Alice paused, taking this opportunity to glare at the ever shrinking Kousuke, before continuing.

「You were destroying all my efforts to prevent your information from leaking out to troublesome groups」(Alice)

Alice just barely managed to keep the ancient clan at bay, only to find out upon re-grouping that there were two huge events propagated by Kousuke. Asking her to not get furious was impossible.

In truth though, Alice wasn't mad, yet.. but she felt extremely upset at his blunders.

「If you want to sell your name to the world please just say so, I'll put my efforts toward that direction as well」(Alice)「But I don't intend on doing that

though」(Kousuke)

「Then be more prudent」(Alice)

「Um.. That.. Mm.. Sorry… Could you hear out my explanation?」(Kousuke)

「You mean excuses? Fine, go ahead」(Alice)

「I never thought that among the kidnapped children, a noble's child would be mixed in. Can I use that in my defense?」(Kousuke)「Well… That is somewhat reasonable….」(Alice)

She sighed once before continuing.

「Just be more careful from now on alright?」(Alice)

「I'll try to be careful」(Kousuke)

Kousuke couldn't acquiesce completely as the future was unforeseeable.

Understanding this point, Alice decided in her heart that she would just follow up when he needs it. Compared to the past Alice, this decision of her's was very pampering, but Kousuke and Viare had no way of knowing this. It was much later in the future that the two found out about how much Alice has changed.

「Tomorrow, come with me to the Merchant's Guild. Got it?」(Alice)

「I won't disagree, but could I know why?」(Kousuke)

「To keep them quiet」(Alice)

The game "Othello" Kousuke provided was something anyone can play. Since anyone can pick it up then everyone will know of Kousuke's existence.

The board and chips need to be crafted and since it's likely to be well received and a large amount of money would begin circulating for the production and sales. This vast fortune, a portion of it will go to Kousuke. Even if the percentage

is small, once this is sold throughout the world the amount that goes to Kousuke would be an astronomical figure. And where the money flows, people with ulterior motive will appear. Many would try to pick at his brain to produce more ideas, or attempt at his or his close one's life for the money.

This situation.. is the complete opposite of what Kousuke wanted. Therefore, the two needed to "encourage" the Merchant's Guild to enact a gag order.

Despite it being a few days already, information travelled somewhat slowly in this world so it was still not too late.

「I hope you understand」(Alice)

After she explained the reason for the information suppression, Kousuke and Viare could only nod their heads quickly.

Moreover, Alice wished for the Rubidashia household to cooperate as well.

Their fame extended throughout the world, with many disciples of theirs spread throughout the continents, as well as many from around the world crowding over to their dojos to become disciples. Their connections were not limited to just those committed to the martial arts, but were also intertwined with the nobility and royal families. Since their influence was so widespread, it was highly likely some information about Kousuke would leak. If someone like Gen'ou, whose abilities are beyond the norm, speak of Kousuke with high praise to others…

It'll clearly impact the livelihood of Kousuke and all those close to him. By all means necessary, Alice wanted to prevent this.

However, Alice lacked the necessary connections within Kohma and the Rubidashia household. Even if Alice forcefully tried to suppress the information, another rumor about a powerful witch trying to cover up for someone will spread instead.

Thus, Alice could only cross her fingers and pray, hoping that the Rubidashia household will keep quiet of their own volition.

「My head hurts…」(Alice)

Alice slumped over slightly while rubbing her temples.Meanwhile, the perpetrators of this situation could only awkwardly smile.

It was only after they relaxed a bit in silence with some tea that the atmosphere in the room lightened up slightly.

Since the two’s situation were already divulged, Alice began to explain everything that happened on her end. Slowly, time turned and dinnertime came about.

ToC

25

Hiyo~

Unedited again so.. beware of my “Engrish”

Enjoy~

Monk

Chapter 25: “Congratulations Kousuke, you get to participate after all!”

Kousuke groggily got up from his bed and changed his clothes before heading out of his room. Sensing no movements in Viare and Alice’s rooms, Kousuke figured the two were still asleep.

Straightening his clothes, Kousuke strode out and headed to the kitchen to make some breakfast. The inn employed chefs to prepare the meals for the guest, but he figured it would be more enjoyable making it himself.

Any of the guests can request for ingredients from the kitchen. As long as the requested amount isn’t excessive, the inn doesn’t charge for the ingredients since it’s treated as the included meal from the rent.

Though he was somewhat upbeat, the real reason for cooking himself is for Alice. After she stayed at the inn for three days she got sick of their food so she asked Kousuke if he could make something different.

Reaching the kitchen, he was immediately surrounded by the scent of food. The chefs were already preparing the meals. While listening to the sounds of vegetables being cut and the sizzling of the frying pans, Kousuke approached one of the maids cleaning the tables.

「Good morning. Mind if I can get some ingredients?」(Kousuke)

「Good morning, sir. Which particular ones are you interested in?」(Maid1)

「Sliced bread, jam and some butter. Also, some lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes and vinaigrette dressing. Hmm, and some eggs and thinly sliced ham. Please prepare three people’s worth」(Kousuke) He decided to keep things simple with

toast, salad and some fried egg n'ham. Since the two ladies had a "small stomach" in the morning, he felt this was enough.

After confirming the order once more, the maid promptly headed to the kitchen's interior. She returned with a pushcart filled with the ingredients.

「Is everything here satisfactory?」(Maid1)

「Yes, thank you very much」(Kousuke)

「The kitchen space reserved for guest use is located in the room besides the dining area.

Once you are done, please lightly clean the tools and have them placed inside the cart in the guest's kitchen.

After your meal, the same rules apply to the dishes and utensils used」(Maid1)
「I understand, thank you」(Kousuke)

Giving his thanks, Kousuke immediately headed to the guest's kitchen to begin cooking.

If anyone experienced were to see his culinary skills, they would be impressed since he looked so young. Kousuke's movements were just that fluid and masterful.

Despite this, his only experience cooking consistently in this world was at Alice's home. He just improved rapidly… Thanks to his cheat-like learning capabilities.

Furthermore, Alice and Horun pushed the cooking duty to Kousuke more often as he improved. His culinary skills surpassed Horun's before he left for St. Beria with Borudosu and was infinitely close to Alice's. He's still far from being a first class chef, but he can easily overwhelm a third rate establishment.

【TL: Author probably meant that Kou-chan's cooking is better than the inn they're staying at】

chopchop the rhythmic sound of the knife evenly slicing vegetables resounded throughout the kitchen. Kousuke tasted the vinaigrette dressing and poured some into two containers before adjusting one of them with seasonings. He even cooked one of the eggs differently.

Since he only knew about Alice's preference, he cooked and seasoned for hers separately but kept Viare's the same as his since he didn't know hers.

Kousuke was in a really good mood though since he could clearly see his skills improved again.

「Finished~」(Kousuke)

He placed the food onto a tray and quickly cleans the cooking tools.

Upon his return, he noticed the two were still asleep so the living room was quiet.

He decided to wake up Viare up since she had to work later. Getting no response after knocking three times, Kousuke tensed slightly before opening the door.

「Good morning~」(Kousuke)

Kousuke greeted as he entered and saw some movement under the blanket.

While squirming under the blanket, Viare finally responded.

「Wah? Kousuke-san?」(Viare)

「It's morning already so it's time to get up. I made breakfast already」(Kousuke)「It's morning…? … Ah.. Good morning」(Viare)

「Mm」(Kousuke)

After telling her to come to the living room, he left her room.

He stood in front of Alice's room and got no response again so he also went into her room.

She didn't respond even after calling out to her so he shook her awake.

「Good morning」(Kousuke)

「Mmm…. It's morning already?」(Alice)

「Yup. I made breakfast for everyone so please wake up」(Kousuke)

「… Oh.. that's right, I asked you to. I'll be up soon」(Alice)

After heading out of Alice's room, Kousuke finally relaxed.**【TL: For those confused, he's basically invading a girl's room, which explains him tensing up**

and feeling nervous】

Viare was still in her pajamas, pouring a drink for everyone in the living room. It looked like she woke up completely after washing her face.

「The seat with the seasoned dressing is Alice's by the way. Make sure you don't eat that one」(Kousuke)「Okay~」(Viare)

Alice, who finished washing up, came into the living room, sat down at her seat, gave her prayers, and then began eating.

「Delicious」(Alice)

She leaked out the compliment when she tasted the salad since it fitted her preference perfectly.

「You haven't been slacking, I see」(Alice)

「I guess so. I'm glad that it tastes good.

How about you Viare? Do you want it sweeter or saltier? I'll try to match it for next time」(Kousuke)「I'm pretty satisfied. If I had to be nit-picky, then I think I'd like a milder flavor?」(Viare)「Mild, got it got it」(Kousuke)

Kousuke bit into his apple jam toast as he memorized Viare's taste.

He completely ignored Viare's muttering about how much better he is at cooking than her.

Twenty minutes after breakfast was finished, Viare, who needed to work, and Kousuke, who needed to return the dishes, left the room together. With the exception of working at the sharpener's store, Kousuke had nothing else to do. Alice placed him under house arrest to keep him from causing any more trouble.

As compensation, Alice taught him more about magic and about the world so he didn't feel too stifled.

「Have a safe trip」(Kousuke)

「Mm, I'm off」(Viare)

After seeing Viare off, Kousuke headed to the kitchen to return the dishes. On his way back to his room his feet suddenly stopped as he spotted Nagare in front of him.

Noticing his presence, Nagare lightly bowed and approached him.

「Good morning」(Nagare)

「Good morning to you too. Is there something you need?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, a small favor if you would」(Nagare)

「Let's not discuss this here. Let's continue this in my room」(Kousuke)

Giving consideration to Alice, Kousuke suggested to continue their conversation back in his room.

「May I know who this is?」(Alice)

Glancing at the entrance when the two entered, Alice asked upon seeing an unknown woman with Kousuke.

「She's the attendant of the noble's child. I mentioned about her, she's Nagare-san」(Kousuke)「Ah, you certainly did mention her. A pleasure to make your acquaintance, I'm Alicia. Kousuke's my disciple」(Alice)**【TL: For those who forgot, Alice is a nickname】**

Upon hearing her name, Nagare showed a slight reaction. Alice's name is quite famous, there's no way Nagare would not know of her. However, Alice's age doesn't match her appearance and there were too many unknown factors so Nagare concluded that she just had the same name.

「The pleasure is mine, I'm called Nagare. Young miss has been in Kousuke-kun's care」(Nagare)「I've heard the details already. Well, talking at the entrance is a bit bothersome so please come in」(Alice)「Then I'll be troubling you」(Nagare)

Alice took a seat and asked Kousuke to prepare some tea. She prompted Nagare to have a seat and the two began to chat. Alice's tone was vastly different from her usual self. Once Kousuke brought back the tea for everyone, the three got to the main topic.

「So you came to visit Kousuke today?」(Alice)

「I wished to ask him for a small favor」(Nagare)

「……A small favor, I see. Could you further indulge us?」(Alice)

「I hoped he would participate in the tournament, under special conditions」(Nagare) Alice slowly placed her cup down after hearing this.

「Please explain further, and why under special conditions?」(Alice)

「This may sound blunt but I believed that Kousuke would definitely participate in the tournament.

However, upon investigating the contestants enrolled for my master, his name did not appear」(Nagare)「Of course his name won't appear. He did not come to this city as a contestant but as a part of the audience」(Alice) Hearing something that naturally fitted Kousuke's disposition, Nagare gave a wry smile.

「With his abilities, it can be easily assumed he would participate.

Therefore, everyone was looking forward to his participation in the tournament.

When I reported to my master about my findings, he kept demanding for Kousuke-kun's participation」(Nagare)「I see, so that is why you're here」(Alice)

「Yes. I came hoping to change his mind.

We've already handled the discussion with the tournament organizers. We only require your permission to proceed with the rest」(Nagare) Seeing Kousuke's unenthusiastic expression, Nagare muttered "Is this no good?", Her actions were not meant to seem compulsory, in fact even if he did refuse there would be no repercussions. It'll only give her a slight headache when she has to deal with the Father-daughter pair.

However, to everyone's surprise, Alice spoke up in an accepting tone.

「By special conditions, what exactly are they?」(Alice)

「Waived from the qualifiers and his participation begins when there are 64 contestants remaining」(Nagare) The contestants would engage in a one-vs-one duels when only 64 of them remain. Prior to that, each round is a 10-way free-for-all.

「…… I will allow it under a few conditions」(Alice)

「What conditions?」(Nagare)

Kousuke couldn't open his mouth at this sudden development. Despite his shock, he kept quiet as he figured Alice had something in mind.

「Your household must keep other's from finding out about Kousuke.

This includes not only during the tournament but also afterwards as well. Especially keep silent around nobles, royalties and others of high influence.

Have this written down as an oath and leave it with me.

If this can be met and maintained, Kousuke may participate since neither he nor I wish to stand out」(Alice) Hearing Nagare's request, Alice wanted to take advantage of the situation to silence the Rubidashia household. Since she lacked the necessary influence around the Rubidashia household, for them to come to her was a miraculous occurrence.

In fact, just keeping quiet about Kousuke is nothing for the Rubidashia household. This is because the existence known as Kousuke is deemed neither beneficial nor disadvantageous for them.

「Am I required to produce an immediate answer to your condition?」(Nagare)

「No, decide after discussing with your master」(Alice)

「Understood, I'll take my leave for today then」(Nagare)

Nagare stood up and gave a light bow before heading to the entrance.

She suddenly halted and turned around. Her expression showed that she suddenly recalled an important detail.

「I understand that you wish for us to keep a low profile about Kousuke, but wouldn't his participation in the tournament be the opposite of that?

The tournament staff, contestants and the audience, we cannot expect their silence so is there a countermeasure in mind?」(Nagare)「I've already taught Kousuke a disguising magic. He simply needs to use that and enroll with a false name.

For your side, being able to watch him fight is enough, correct?」(Alice)

「That is… certainly correct」(Nagare)

「In that case, your side should be satisfied as long as I provide the appearance

and name he will use」(Alice)「I understand, I shall deliver this information」(Nagare)

With that concluded, Nagare finally left the room.

As a matter of fact, Nagare already deduced that they would use a disguise. She only asked in a “curious” manner to gain more information on just how developed their disguising abilities were.

However, Alice saw through her ploy but still openly revealed it. There was simply no need to hide it since she was originally going to reveal it to them.

「Make sure you participate since it’s already like this」(Alice)

「I really want to refuse though….」(Kousuke)

「Bear with it since it’s to completely settle the issues YOU caused in this city」(Alice) Despite it being the truth, Kousuke still felt a bit wronged.

He eventually agreed to participate and the two began discussing about the appearance of the disguise.

Their immediate thought was Ride Hero. Having already learned some superficial magic to mimic the appearance of Ride Hero’s super techniques, on top of being an interesting character, they agreed to use it as the disguise.

Viare, upon her return, was shocked hearing the news about Kousuke’s plan to enter the tournament. His adamant attitude of not participating was suddenly overturned, it’ll be a wonder if she wasn’t shocked.

After listening to Alice’s explanation for his sudden change of heart, Viare looked towards Kousuke with eyes filled with sympathy.

The following day, Nagare returned stating the acceptance of Alice’s conditions. The deal was finalized with Kousuke’s alias being added into the tournament roster.

The official document to abide by the conditions signed by Gen’ou personally would later be delivered and guarded by the guilds. Prior to this, neither party is obligated to follow the conditions.

… And soon, the first day of the tournament arrived.

The city became flooded with people. Among the torrent of people, not all were heading to the arena.

With the use of projection magic, those who decided against going to the arena due to disliking crowds or only watching for the fun of it could enjoy it too. Just think of it as something like a limited-time television.

The biggest downside, however, is that this magic is limited to the visual aspects only. Despite not being able to replicate the audio, the largeness of the projection gave it a strong enough impact for the audience.

The ones entering the arena were fans of watching raw fights.

Kousuke and co. were mixed in with the arena crowd. Since Kousuke's participation was guaranteed, Gen'ou provided Alice and Viare VIP seat tickets as well.

His debut would begin from the third day of the tournament so Kousuke was also given a VIP ticket for the first two days.

The arena before them was permeating ancientness filled with an unfathomable history. According to Alice, this place had to be constantly repaired and maintained for the tournaments. However, it was smaller than a baseball stadium and the Coliseum on Earth was also bigger. If all the seats and standing areas were filled, 30,000 occupants was probably the limit.

After buying some refreshments, the three headed toward their reserved seats.

Their seats were separated from the other reserved seats, with the best front and center view of the stage.

As for the special rooms in the upper area of the arena, those were specifically reserved for the upper nobility and royalty.

「This kind of thing is a first for me」(Viare)

Viare was curiously looking around her like a child.

「I've experienced this quite a few times. Mmm, still though, it's been around ten years since I watched though」(Alice) 「I think I only experienced this once before?」(Kousuke)

Kousuke overlapped his current experience with Earth's pro baseball game. Even if the events are different the sensation and excitement felt the same.

The three waited in anticipation for around thirty minutes when a gong resounded loudly throughout the arena and beyond, signaling the start of the tournament.

On the stage, a few people suddenly appeared. Among them, Gen'ou was there.

An announcement suddenly sounded from an unknown source.

「An announcement from the tournament administrator」(???)

The audience quickly quieted down.

The elderly man signaled the mage behind him to cast a volume increasing spell before speaking.

「I hereby declare the start of the martial arts tournament!」(Administrator?)

In under ten seconds the elderly man finished and quickly stepped back.

The arena was quickly filled with applause and shouts of joy.

Once the audience calmed down, another announcement was heard.

「The return of the championship pennant, our previous tournament's champion,

Sir Ritai Muzetsu, ENTER!」(Announcer)

In accordance to the announcer, a man in his mid-20s holding a small flag walked onto the stage and handed the flag to the administrator.

Upon receiving the flag, the administrator and Ritai began discussing something, but no one else could hear them.

At the announcer's urging, the group on stage left before he continued with the important facts of the tournament.

To summarize:

Killing is disallowed. In the case that someone is killed, if deemed an accident, no penalties will be applied. However, if the assailant's assault is deemed to be

either in excess or filled with killing intent, he/she will be judged accordingly.

A loss is determined by someone giving up, falling unconscious or landing outside the boundaries of the stage. Going too far from the boundaries will also be deemed as a loss, therefore flying is also prohibited.

All contestants are free to choose their weapons, however, in the case of damaged or destroyed equipment, the owner may not demand remuneration from the opponent.

The same applies to injuries since the tournament organizer has arranged for healers to provide treatment, free of charge.

With the rules explained, the announcer also stated that the first round of the first match will begin soon.

「The entrants are getting on the stage now it seems. The round should be starting soon」(Alice) The gates around the stage opened and ten warriors stepped out onto the stage while keeping some distance from each other.

「Umm, is everyone ready?」(???)

A different voice from the announcer asked the contestants on stage.

To which all nodded in affirmation. With this the announcer shouted the start of the match.

「First match of the preliminary round….. BEGIN!」(Announcer)

Simultaneous to the announcement, all ten contestants moved. Each and every one moved with respect to their thoughts.

A few charging headfirst towards their closest opponent, two that began to use magic, one person that retreated to the edge to see how things play out, a few that stayed immobile while staying vigilant, *etc.*

In the end, the victor went to the warrior who retreated first. A brilliant use of calm observation and energy preservation lead to victory.

The next round was similar to the first and ended in around twenty minutes. There were only two instances where a round ended in under ten minutes.

Those were contrary to what Kousuke expected. Seemingly impossible moves,

trained through gifts and years of combat, were displayed flashily. It was like an action movie and thoroughly entertained him. Going above and beyond Kousuke's expectations, this tournament suddenly became a fountain of knowledge for him. Just from observing his strength was increasing.

「I wonder when it's Borudosu's turn」(Kousuke)

「We didn't overlook him, did we?」(Viare)

「Your worries are unfounded. I wouldn't miss him even if he tried to hide」(Alice) ———————-

They actually already met with Borudosu earlier.

When he came into town, Alice "tracked" him and the three gave a surprise visit.

The dumbfounded look on his face when they arrived was priceless. His face became even more twisted in shock as they discussed what transpired the past few weeks.

Borudosu came to the city with a few friends as well. Among then, Clarice was also present. Her "reason" was because she was interested in seeing the tournament. She left her cousin to take care of the store.**【TL: Clarice, we all know why you're there ;D】**

Peering at the rest of his crew, Kousuke noticed there was another woman dressed as an adventurer among them. Putting two and two together, he guessed she was the other who fell for Borudosu. After being introduced to her, it became concrete but surprisingly, she was not participating in the tournament.

Once those two "lovers" heard that Alice was Borudosu's foster mother, they became stiff for the rest of the visit.

When Borudosu asked Kousuke if he was participating, after hesitating for a brief moment, Kousuke shook his head. Just in case, he decided to keep it a secret from Borudosu as well since others were around.

———————-

The intermission ended and the tournament resumed. After an hour,

Borudosu's figure finally appeared on stage.

「Ah, there he is」(Kousuke)

「Where?」(Viare)

Kousuke pointed at Borudosu's figure on stage for Viare.

Borudosu has yet to see the three of them though. Despite how easy to find they were, he never dreamed that they would be seated in the VIP area, so he didn't even look around. They tried to call for him, but the three's voices were drowned out by the audience.

「Well then, let's see if he'll last until the end」(Alice)

Alice smiled excitedly as she impatiently awaited for the round to begin.

Borudosu was wielding his favorite axe. To adhere to the tournament rules, he blunted the edge with a special cover. Still though, with his strength, breaking a bone or two would still be a breeze.

The round began.

Borudosu immediately dashed toward the nearest opponent. He clashed violently against the opponent and immediately knocked him unconscious before rapidly finding another target.

This group didn't have any abnormals, so after a while only Borudosu and a mage was left in a 1v1 situation.

The finale of this round was: Borudosu charging valiantly at the mage while enduring the various bolts of spells pelting him. In the end, the mage couldn't stop his charge and was shoulder tackled off the stage.【**TL: THIS. IS. SPARTAAAAA!!!**】

With this, Borudosu safely advanced to the second rounds of the preliminaries.

His appearance seemed slightly haggard as he exited the stage.

「I'm glad Borudosu-san won」(Viare)

「Mm」(Kousuke)

「He did alright, but at this rate he'll lose sooner or later」(Alice)

「Is it really impossible for him to win?」(Viare)

Viare asked back.

「Well, he can't beat Kousuke」(Alice)【**TL: Poor Borudosu…**】

「Ah, that's true」(Viare)

「It's a different story if he got a trump card while he was travelling though」(Alice) Alice was convinced that it won't be like that though. With their long relationship, there's no way Borudosu's strength would be overlooked by her.

「I can say he did well only if he manages to win his way to the top 64 and manages to win at least one of the matches」(Alice)「Even though he's strong.. it's only good if he manages just up to there?」(Viare)「He's in a handicapped situation since he can't use his gift」(Alice)

His gift will make him unrestrained, unfortunately. He'll be able to perform at his peak, but more likely than not he'll end up killing with that uncontrolled strength. Since this tournament punishes murder, it's easy to conclude that this gift of his is taboo.

His decision to participate despite the disadvantage was because the prizes for the top 64 and to get a clearer picture of where his current strength stands.

Also, as an adventurer, it's a form of prestige just by getting into the top 64.

While Alice was explaining the two about why Borudosu was entering, the next match began.

One match after another proceeded and the first day of the tournament finally came to a conclusion.

Seeing the audience leaving, the three followed the crowd out.

They listened to the clamors of the crowd. Excited chatters of the best fights, groans and cheers from the gamblers, there was not one person among them that stayed quiet.

Even as the night grew, the crowd wouldn't disappear until the guards forcefully dispersed them.

The following day, the three got their refreshments once again before heading

to their seats.

The matches were still the same 10 people free-for-all, but all the contestants were more riled up.

The more hot-blooded the fights, the more the audience cheered.

Borudosu also managed to win his matches today. His opponents were stronger than yesterday so he looked even more battered after today.

Just like the rest of the contestants, he received treatment for his wounds. Kousuke hoped that Borudosu would be well rested for tomorrow's matches.

【TL: Since you'll be kicking his ass, right Kou-chan?】

And the third day of the tournament arrived.

「I'll be heading out first」(Kousuke)

「We'll see you there!」(Viare)

「Make sure you disguise yourself before you arrive there. Take care to not reveal your identity or where you're staying too」(Alice) 「Roger that」(Kousuke)

Kousuke nodded before heading out the inn with everything he needed.

On his way to the arena, he slipped into an empty alley before changing into Ride Hero. Just in case, he covered himself with an illusory robe before heading back onto the streets.**【TL: You sound like a flasher】**

Kousuke approached the soldier guarding the entrance for contestants and presented his invitation.

Seeing his shrouded appearance, the soldiers were vigilant at first but after confirming the authenticity of the invitation they allowed Kousuke to pass without any issue.

Once inside, Kousuke was immediately led to a private waiting room and was asked to relax until the matches begin. While Kousuke was enjoying the tea and snacks left for him in the room, a knock from the door was heard.

When Kousuke said "come in", two figures entered.

「Lady Shizuku and Ms. Nagare? To what do I owe this visit?」(Kousuke)

「Sorry for the sudden intrusion, but we're just here to see how you were. It seems you're already in your disguise」(Nagare) At first, Nagare was suspicious and cautious due to his shrouded features, but relaxed when she heard his voice.

「I didn't want to leave any tracks」(Kousuke)

「Can I see what your disguise looks like under that robe?」(Shizuku)

Shizuku briskly trotted over to Kousuke and tried to peel off the hood of the robe. To her disbelief, her hands slipped right through them.

「The entire robe's an illusion. I'll remove it」(Kousuke)

Kousuke dispelled the robe portion of his disguise.

The two were surprised when a complete stranger appeared from under the robe.

The most shocking was the mask Kousuke was wearing as the design was completely foreign to them.

「Was the design of your disguise your original creation?」(Nagare)

「If it's completely original?」(Kousuke)

To his response, Nagare nodded.

「No, it's not. This appearance is from a hero from my hometown. He protected the weak and innocent from various monstrous beings and eventually destroyed their nests, bringing peace to my home」(Kousuke) 「I'm a little surprised since I've never seen or heard anything like this hero, especially since it stands out」(Nagare) 「If you recognized this, I would be more shocked」(Kousuke)

「Is there any specific merits attached to this appearance?」(Shizuku)

「Nope. This entire thing is an illusion too. I'll be incorporating some small, special "magic" during my matches. It's mostly just to make things look a bit flashy, since in the end I'm just fighting unarmed」(Kousuke) While giving an understanding nod, Shizuku was patting all over Kousuke's disguise.

She thought her hands would go through and touch his actual appearance underneath, but was startled when her hands landed on the disguise.

「The magic for this portion of the disguise is a bit unique so it can trick the other senses」(Kousuke) If, during the matches, the illusory disguise on him was found out by others, it would draw in unwanted suspicion. A case where the opponent realizing the sensation after being hit by Kousuke's fist was not a glove, but a direct hand was one such possibility. In any case, there was no reason not to take extra precautions so he used the more advanced illusion magic.

With the purpose of their visit finished, the two scurried out of the room to get back to their seats.

Thirty minutes later, a tournament staff came to Kousuke's room.

She froze in place upon seeing the unrobed figure in the room. After a brief moment she regained her composure and asked for Kousuke to follow her out.

After dropping Kousuke off near the exit to the arena, she immediately dashed off to the closest co-worker to gossip about the weird contestant.

The rest of the surviving contestants were waiting nearby and had their eyes glued to Kousuke's presence.

They were not shocked nor amazed by his unusual appearance, but the fact that he was here among the top 64 despite never being in the previous matches. His attire was simply too unique for anyone to forget. They were obviously not content with this person's sudden appearance.

Borudosu, however, gave Kousuke a peculiar look as if it was familiar. Then it suddenly hit him, it's Ride Hero! It made his head spin more upon this realization.

『Why is a hero from a fairy tale here?!』thought Borudosu.

During and prior to the play, Borudosu never found out about Kousuke's involvement in it and never imagined it would be Kousuke himself.

While Kousuke "tried" to ignore the stabbing gazes, an announcement from outside was heard.

「We shall begin the tournament placement lottery!

The following matches will be held between the remaining 62 contestants and the two seeded contestants, totaling 64.

The order the contestants will go up to fight will depend on what lottery number they draw.

Please give a round of applause to the brave warriors!!!」(Announcer)

The crowd went into a thunderous applause.

The contestants all crowded out onto the arena. Even now the audience were applauding loudly, but some were suddenly shocked.

The cause was Kousuke. Just like the contestants, the audiences were unsettled by his sudden appearance as well.

Ignoring the questioning looks of the audience, the announcer was discussing the rules of the lottery to the contestants.

「When your name is called, please draw one slip from the box here.

The order I will be using is based on when you first had a match during this tournament. Therefore, the two seeded individuals will be called last as they have not fought yet.

Now then, first up, the lion beastkin hailing from the southern continent, Kris!

Despite not having a gift, using his innate prowess as a lion beastkin he easily won his matches. His mastery over the short spear cannot be overlooked as his opponents from the first and second rounds were unable to avoid them! His spear arts are something all should be wary of!」(Announcer) While the lion beastkin man was drawing the lottery, the announcer continued introducing the rest of the contestants.

To assist the audience, the announcer continued to briefly divulge some details about the contestants. In fact, the other contestants were listening carefully as well. Every detail about the other contestants were crucial since each and every one of them are strong.

One after another was announced and finally Borudosu’s turn came.

「Next contestant is from the Eastern continents!

Due to the rules of the tournament, he has been suppressing the use of his gift as it would endanger the lives of his opponents. However, despite this handicap he has managed to win his way up to this point!

How far can he go with such a handicap, we shall find out soon!」(Announcer)

Hearing this, various people within the crowd were amazed.

The announcer continued to ignore the crowd's reaction and resumed his announcing.

Finally, the 62 contestants were done drawing and the remaining two seeded players were left.

「Announcing the first seeded contestant! Will this tournament become a part of this man's legacy?! Once again, the warrior everyone knows, the conqueror of the previous tournament! SIR RITAI MUZETSU!

Who among our contestants will be able to topple this impregnable fortress!? Even I must say I'm excited to see such a development!」(Announcer) Not only the announcer, but the audience were drawn into a frenzy with this introduction. Ritai approached the box and slowly pulled out a slip.

Currently, there was only two blank spots left. One as Borudosu's opponent and the other is a swordsman using a different style from the Amasera dojo.

Borudosu felt that the other seeded opponent would be easier to handle compared to Ritai and was praying Ritai wouldn't go his way. Regardless of which seeded contestant he gets, Borudosu had no idea that both would lead to a severe fight for him.

Ritai raised the slip into the air to display to everyone and his name appeared on the tournament board. His opponent was Borudosu.

Seeing this, Borudosu paled as he blankly stared at the board. It was over 90% likely he would lose now.

Alice was laughing at Borudosu's terrible luck.【**TL: WOW ALICE! That's your son**】

「The final contestant!

We introduce the mysterious warrior!」(Announcer)

It was finally Kousuke's turn and the crowd turned quiet. There were some that were quietly discussing the nature of this mysterious contestant.

「Introducing, Ride One. Origin, age, real name, gender, all information is unknown!

The only confirmed detail we have is that this contestant was recommended directly by the Rubidashia household's patriarch!

With this, we can all assume this person has that much potential. I am eager to see Ride One's performance in the coming matches!」(Announcer) The appearance Kousuke gave off just standing there made him look dignified to the rest.

Being directly recommended by Gen'ou, the rest of the contestants became increasingly wary of Kousuke and the audiences were in an uproar at the sudden appearance of a strong dark horse.

Only Ritai was staring at Kousuke in an amused fashion. His eyes were gleaming hungrily『Finally, someone worth fighting』(Ritai)

ToC

26

Hiyo~

This translation is brought you by the wheelchair bound workaholic known as Monk.

ENJOY~

Chapter 26: UNLEASHED! RIDE KICK!

With an announcement, only two contestants who drew the first match slip were left on the arena.

Kousuke's turn, even if the preceding matches were concluded quickly, wouldn't begin until late afternoon.

Since he could watch the matches from his waiting room, he decided to go back. The tournament staff even had his meals prepared so he had no reason to stay anywhere else.

When he got back to the room, the first match had already began.

The two on stage was a tall man with a "Mana Absorption" gift and a limber individual with the "Greater Agility" gift.

The tall man's gift allowed him to absorb mana around him, including other people's when they try to utilize magic. However, to completely nullify another person's magic, this gift needs to be trained up to at least the 3rd stage. Anything prior would simply reduce the effectiveness of the incoming spells.

The "Greater Agility" gift not only improves the user's speed and reaction, but also their thought process speed. The 1st stage of this gift improves the physical agility of the user by 5% and they can think 3x faster than a normal person. In the final stages of this gift, the physical improvement jumps to 20% and the user can think 10x faster than a normal person.

The match quickly ended with the agility gift user's win. He pressured his opponent heavily without using magic so it made his opponent's gift useless.

In fact, another contributing factor to the agility gift user's victory was the announcer's previous divulging of the other contestants' information.

The next set of matches proceeded smoothly and, with the end of the afternoon intermission, Kousuke's turn approached.

Prior to the break was Borudosu's match with Ritai, with Ritai as the victor. Borudosu was reckless throughout the match, constantly trying to land full powered blows against Ritai. In response, Ritai ignored Borudosu's attacks and immediately crushed him.

The equipment Ritai wore was a steel breast plate and a leather glove and shin guard, plated with thin sheets of iron. Seeing how they weren't even dented despite Borudosu's onslaught, it was clear that Ritai is a gift user or the equipment's were enchanted.

「Finally, the unveiling of this tournament's mystery shall begin! Ride One and Shayden, ENTER!」(Announcer)

The two appeared onto the stage at the announcer's call and faced each other.

The crowd was brimming with excitement. They can finally see the mysterious Ride One in action!

「I'll be no better than a dog who wished to be a wolf if I lose this match. Henceforth, this wolf shall unveil how much of a dog you truly are」(Shayden)

With a snap Shayden arrogantly pointed at Kousuke and announced.

His voice didn't reach the audience, but from his actions the audience knew he was goading Ride One. Many started to cheer for Shayden after this.

Compared to Shayden, Kousuke stayed silent and motioned his right hand in a "Bring IT" fashion.

「The fight hasn't even started and the two are provoking each other already! I'm sure not just these two but the rest of us want this to start, so without further ado!!! Ride versus Shayden, ready… BEGIN!」(Announcer)

The first to move at the announcer's signal was Kousuke.

『Let's test him a bit with a light punch』(Kousuke)

The light punch of Kousuke's was only in his perspective. In the eyes of the audience and other contestants, its speed and power was most likely the highest they've seen yet.

However, Shayden slightly shifted his body and dodged it. The follow-up kick was gracefully dodged with a back step as well.

「Striking at the speed of light, contestant Ride, and the man gracefully dodging them, contestant Shayden! Just how will things develop from here!!」(Announcer)

Ignoring the announcer's sudden outburst, Kousuke continued his assault. The fruits of his labor, Kousuke was skillfully weaving direct and feinted attacks. But even those were being avoided by Shayden. It was unclear if that was all he could muster in this situation, but even now Shayden has never attacked.

Kousuke felt something was amiss and thought.

『Is this his gift of future prediction, his so called "Clairvoyance"?』(Kousuke)

This information was also divulged by the announcer.

However, the details of the gift were obscure so Kousuke did not slow down to gather more information.

What he figured out so far was that Shayden was dodging after seeing the incoming attack and was not dodging because he could see the future.

It was evident when Kousuke first attacked since Shayden was in motion the moment AFTER Kousuke took a step forward. He was responding to certain subtle motions, like line of sight, weight shifting, *etc.* before moving.

Taking the information received from his gift, processing it and responding in accordance to the results shown before him, this explained why Kousuke's attacks and feints weren't working.

There was one more crucial detail he found. From the audience and announcer's perspective, Shayden looked calm and composed, but Kousuke who was closer could clearly see the strained look due to extreme concentration reflected on Shayden's face.

『I'm sure if I go any faster he'll be unable to dodge.. Let's find out』(Kousuke)

Kousuke experimented with a slight increase in his speed and lo and behold, his punch left a scratch on Shayden's armor.

Since his hypothesis was proven correct, Kousuke smiled and decided to proceed with his plan.

He stopped his onslaught and leapt away from Shayden. Unable to respond, Shayden could only watch Kousuke leap away.

If Shayden's gift was a true clairvoyance then he might have been able to counterattack there, but the true nature of his gift was an improvement to his senses and reflexes which made it seem like he can see the future. He predicted that Kousuke would back away, but could not understand the reason for it. This, in the end, just made him much more tense.

At this juncture, Shayden took this opportunity to gather as much information as possible.

Underneath his illusory mask, Kousuke's mouth moved. He took an unusual pose, but small balls of lights were gathering around his right leg.

The announcer did not overlook this.

「Light is gathering around Ride's leg!! Is he about to unleash a big move?!」(Announcer)

The gathering light was, in fact, just an illusion and has absolutely zero combat use.

However, Shayden came to the same conclusion as the announcer and plunged toward Kousuke to stop him.

Kousuke leapt into the sky to avoid him. As he reached the peak of his jump, the light gathering around his leg began to shine brilliantly.

The blue balls of light around his right leg began to swirl around him, making it seem like his move was about to be unleashed. In a daze, the audience was enthralled at the brilliance.

Upon landing, with the fastest speed yet, Kousuke launched a jump kick towards Shayden.

Underneath the illusory mask, Kousuke muttered "Ride Kick".

Unable to dodge, Shayden cleanly took the kick to his chest.

At that moment, blinding light enveloped the entire arena, followed by a loud explosion and an enormous amount of smoke covered the two. All of this was just Kousuke's SFX.

This caused the entire audience to become sullenly quiet.

Then suddenly, they saw Shayden fly out of the stage, clearly unconscious.

「Me.. MEDICAL TEAM! Confirm Shayden's condition!」(Announcer)

First to snap back, the announcer immediately called to confirm Shayden's wellbeing.

With the announcer’s shouting the audience also woke up and began to clamor more and more nervously.

With what Kousuke displayed, everyone thought he killed Shayden. Clearly.. He overdid his little “show”.

The medical team rushed over to Shayden. Confirming the presence of breathing and a pulse, the medical team gave the announcer the results.

Hearing them, the announcer’s sigh of relief resounded throughout the arena.

「I shall announce the results. Besides some signs of fractures in the ribs, Shayden’s condition is not life threatening! Therefore, the winner of this match is Ride!」(Announcer)

The audience went into a huge uproar of cheers and applause.

Everyone finally acknowledged the recommendation Kousuke received and were trembling in excitement.

Kousuke pumped his fist into the air in response to the avid cheering. He decided he’ll go with the Ride Punch in his next match as he walked back to his room.

The following matches proceeded smoothly and the official first round of the tournament ended.

The most memorable match of the day, was without a doubt, Kousuke’s match. There were other interesting matches with the elusive elf, Sylph, or beastmen vs lycanthropists, but the impact of Kousuke’s Ride Kick blew all of those out of the water.

Incidentally, Alice asked what kind of technique Kousuke used when he got back to the inn. When he explained that it was just a simple jump kick with some superficial effects, she rolled her eyes at him.

The following day was Kousuke’s 2nd and 3rd matches, but he claimed victory

with absolute ease.

His second opponent had the gift “Physique Control” and the third opponent was a dual-wielding high goblin. Compared to the small statured goblins, the high goblin was two meters tall.

The “Physique Control” gift allowed the opponent to manipulate his body movement at will. As the gift is developed, the user is able to ignore the limitations caused by their joints, inertia and even gravity to a great extent. However, this gift doesn’t negate any bodily burdens so the wild, reckless use of it is equivalent to being suicidal.

This opponent attacked Kousuke with little regards to his own safety. On the other hand, as Kousuke observed this, he responded by mimicking, albeit not perfectly, the opponent’s reckless moves. With the match becoming an enticing acrobatic show, the audience were thoroughly enraptured.

The third match against the high goblin, Kousuke effortlessly dodged all of his attacks and when an opening presented itself, Kousuke charged in and threw the high goblin off stage with one hand.

At first glance, the third match was somewhat bland, but it showed that Kousuke was not only fast, but also wielded incredible strength.

The next day was the last day of the tournament.

Kousuke’s fourth match was against an Amasera swordsman with the “Simplicity” gift. He feinted with a Ride Kick before shrouding the stage with a smoke screen. While the opponent was blinded, he smashed the swordsman with a fist wrapped in illusion and launched him off stage with a Ride Punch.

The swordsman’s gift was an interesting one where it literally simplified certain actions. One use for it would be to negate the necessary incantations for spells. Unfortunately, there has been no records of anyone fully mastering this gift, so the exact details of it are obscure.

This swordsman did not fully master his gift, but he definitely had some great attainment in its use. Whenever he slashed, certain muscle motions were omitted and he was freely changing his defensive and offensive tempo.【**TL:**

Basically, this swordsman is capable of acting without showing any signs of it, even if the opponent were able to see through to his muscle】

His skills could be considered high, but in front of Kousuke it presented little threat and all his attacks were not dodged, but directly blocked.

With the matches so far, Kousuke quickly became the crowd's favorite for the championship as he held the trifecta of a warrior: Power to overturn all obstacles, speed to confront any situation, and the necessary steadfastness to endure all oppositions.

The Semifinal. The most anticipated match of this tournament was about to begin:

Ride vs Ritai.

As both contestants entered the stage, the crowd fell silent, awaiting for the match to begin.

Ritai grinned devilishly as he stared at Kousuke. It couldn't be helped, he was simply too excited about this match.

「The moment we have all been waiting for has arrived! Both the audience and I believe this match will exceed even the finals of this tournament!

I happened to overhear the bet ratio: it is close to 50/50. Though slight, the scale leans more towards Ritai becoming the champion once again!

Ladies and gentlemen of the audience, are you ready! Warriors, are you ready!

With this, I announce the start of the semi-final match, Ride vs Ritai…」(Announcer)

The announcer paused briefly as he took in a deep breath, filled with anticipation.

「3! 2! 1! BEGIN!」(Announcer)

The first to move was Kousuke. Ritai stayed composedly in place, just like all his previous matches.

Kousuke's fist plunged straight towards Ritai's chest. Ritai immediately raised his arms in a cross-guard fashion. Learning from Borudosu's match with Ritai, Kousuke did not hold back his punch.

The simple flesh on flesh impact of the punch released an unbelievable shockwave. To these two, that shockwave signaled the true start of the match.

After a brief pause, Kousuke resumed his offense with a flurry of punches. Ritai continued his defensive stance, blocking, dodging and parrying those blows. Under normal circumstances, even if none of the strikes were decisive, damage would pile up into something noticeable.

However, Ritai's grinning complexion was unperturbed.

「You surprised me. I'm actually feeling a little pain for once」(Ritai)

In a serene voice, Ritai spoke indifferently.

『Does his gift negate physical based attacks on his body?』(Kousuke)

To test this, Kousuke leapt away in attempts to use magic.

Ritai gave no chase and resumed staying in place.

Feeling that a long-ranged attack was unsuitable as Ride One, Kousuke decided to use a little trick to smash some magic into Ritai. Despite being unlike his normal self, Kousuke was too excited to care about having any restraint.

He quickly gripped his right fist and pointed it to the sky. Using his left hand, he gripped over his right fist and slid the left hand down to the elbow to gesture that he's about to use a special move. In a low voice, he completes the incantation for a fireball and evoked it around his right fist. His fire fist was

complete!【**TL: HI ACE!**】

He thought it would burn his hand, since it was his first time doing this, but it was just a bit hot instead, like an overheated bath. Contrary to his thoughts, the temperature of the fire was enough to burn people to a crisp, but his tolerance to the elements was simply too high.

『Here comes my blazing fist of justice, Burning Ride Punch!』(Kousuke)

【**TL: Raw said Irregular Ride Punch.. but Burning sounded better**】

Seeing the vigorous strike approaching, Ritai steadied his footing and raised his arm in a cross-guard fashion once again.

The flame on the burning fist enveloped the two with a burst and slowly started to fade.

Seeing the unchanged expression on Ritai underneath the flame, Kousuke was taken aback to see that even magic was ineffective.

After all this time, the only thing Kousuke could conclude about Ritai's gift was that it was defense-oriented.

『Is my only choice to go full force against this person?』(Kousuke)

He separated once more from Ritai and rapidly tried to think of a plan.

Taking advantage of Kousuke's opening, Ritai charged forward and swung his brutish sword in a flurry. With a blunted edge and an enormous body, his sword looked like a giant club instead.

Of the opponents Ritai faced so far, none had a good fate once his sword appeared. The sheer weight of the sword along with the momentum of the swing, most would crumple under such force. Even if someone was able to withstand the blow, they would end up leaving a huge opening.

Ritai's fighting style can be summed up as such: "Allow for the flesh to be cut

to break their bones", a purely offensive style.【**TL: 肉を斬らせて骨を断つ, a proverb that sounds awful in English, but it literally means to attack with the intent to win, even if it means you're harmed in the process – A "Winner Takes All" kind of thing**】

Kousuke was unable to fully avoid the flurry and received a few on his body.

『Hmm, his offensive ability doesn't seem to be too great. I guess it's just his defense that's difficult to deal with』(Kousuke)

Deflecting the incoming strike toward his left shoulder, Kousuke immediately took a step forward and sent a palm strike toward Ritai's chest.

There was no damage, but it killed Ritai's momentum and forced him back.

A stronger strike would have left some lingering damage, but that wouldn't be fun for him or the crowd. Kousuke didn't realize he was in full "hero show mode" despite it only being a disguise.

Mistaking the unusual action of Kousuke staring at his hand as shock, Ritai opened his mouth and suddenly began explaining his gift.

「Normal attacks can't hurt me you know since my gift is "Damage Reduction". Regardless of its source, all damage I take can be reduced. I'm pretty sure only your shining kick from your first match can actually hurt me」(Ritai)

Ritai's gift already raised his defensive capabilities to an unbelievable level, but he further suppresses the inflicted damage by actively blocking them.

He only explained everything since the only way to overcome it is to have enough strength in this situation. If they were fighting without any rules, then traps or poisons could be used.

「Come at me with that kick, I'll meet it with a suitable skill. It's something I

developed to use against the Rubidashia household's patriarch, never imagined I would be using it here like this」(Ritai)

【TL: Then why are you giving him that opportunity and funneling yourself like this, genius =.=】

『I don't mind playing by your rules, but I'll make sure you play your role in my show well』(Kousuke)

【TL: Wow.. you're really into this aren't you Kou-chan】

Kousuke took up a stance as he gathered the illusory light around his right leg. Ritai gripped his sword with both hands as he kept the blade pointing down. His mouth began moving, preparing an unknown spell.

Both of them took a step forward.

Kousuke launched forward and unleashed his jump kick. Ritai dashed forward slightly before swinging his sword up. While the blade was in motion, an explosion appeared behind Ritai causing him to fly forward like a bullet. A rocket propulsion method made possible with his gift.

『RIDE KICK!』(Kousuke)

「TRUE STRIKE!」(Ritai)**【TL: Sounds awful in English. Raw is: One Blade Big Slash】**

The two's attack immediately clashed, releasing an incredible shockwave followed by a blinding flash and smoke.

From within the cloud of smoke, Kousuke's body flew out and crashed onto the ground.

Ritai's figure immediately dashed out from the smoke, charging towards Kousuke. With a swing of his blade, Ritai sent Kousuke flying once more onto the edge of the arena.

Both the audience and Ritai thought that Kousuke was about to lose. Contrary

to their thoughts, Kousuke was left largely unharmed. Gen'ou's "God Slayer" was actually more painful.

He only "lost" this clash to make his comeback even more memorable for the crowd.

Seeing Kousuke wobbly stand up, Ritai charged forward to finish the match.

「A rush, a rush! The table has turned in favor of Ritai! Ride is somehow hanging on, but will the match be ending soon!? Or will he make a comeback!?」(Announcer)

【TL: Yea, a really corny one】

The announcer excitedly dictated the situation.

Kousuke continued to stall by "barely" dodging and stumbling around the stage. Feeling the timing was right, he took a small distance from Ritai before propelling himself with gust magic at Ritai.

Seeing the sudden charge of the "fatigued" Kousuke, Ritai stopped his feet and took up a defensive stance.

「You're finally going all out! I shall accept your bet and withstand it once again! My victory is assured! COME!」(Ritai)

Being unable to discern that everything has been an act, Ritai misinterpreted Kousuke's action as his last ditch effort.

Seeing how readily baited Ritai was, Kousuke grinned under his illusory mask and evoked a completely new illusion around himself.

「This?! A TIGER?!?! There's a face of a tiger on Ride's legs! Is this his biggest move yet?!

Furthermore, the light is wrapped around both his leg and are red instead of blue!」(Announcer)

Using the flight magic, Kousuke leapt high into the sky. At the peak of his “jump”, Kousuke began to plummet while spiraling towards Ritai.

At the tip of his extended right leg, a bright red sash was spiraling alongside his body making him seem like a human drill.

「It’s a tornado! A red tornado is spiraling towards Ritai at the speed of light!」(Announcer)

『I present the HURRICANE RIDE KICK!』(Kousuke)【**TL: Damnit Kou-chan…**】

Feeling the pressure released by the approaching light, Ritai had cold sweat coat his back from his hasty decision.

In an instant, Kousuke’s spiraling kick landed onto Ritai’s arm.

Without stopping his spiraling, Kousuke’s kick was slowly pushing back Ritai, whose face displayed a struggling expression.

Kousuke stopped spiraling after around 10 seconds and the light around his right leg vanished.

「I endured! I BLOCKED IT!」(Ritai)

He roared while relishing the immense pain he hasn’t experienced in such a long time.

The audience, seeing the “final” blow being blocked, felt that Kousuke’s loss was imminent.

As if betraying their thoughts, Kousuke, using Ritai’s arm as a spring, leapt up into the sky once more.

『I prepared something for just this case!』(Kousuke)

「Ride has once again taken flight! Was that not his final attack!?」(Announcer)

Kousuke suddenly began somersaulting towards Ritai.

「Is this possibly…!?」(Announcer)

The announcer shouted at the sudden development, as if understanding what will occur.

『RIDE AXE KICK!』(Kousuke)

「IT IS! It's an axe kick!」(Announcer)

With the left leg still wrapped with light, the axe kick dropped heavily down onto Ritai's shoulder.

With a gust of wind, the dust cloud surrounding the two was erased and the scene of Kousuke standing over a collapsed Ritai was revealed.

With his muffler fluttering in the wind, a picturesque moment of triumphing over a great ordeal was encapsulated into the hearts of many in the audience.

Although Ritai successfully blocked the first strike, albeit with some damage taken, the second strike was something he could no longer withstand.

「Confirm their conditions!」(Announcer)

After not seeing any movement from Ritai for 10 seconds, the announcer shouted for the referee to confirm the conditions of both contestants.

After briefly checking Kousuke, the referee asked Kousuke to stand a small distance away as he checked Ritai's body.

As he stood up, he waved his hand indicating that Ritai was completely unconscious.

「It's finished! The results are in! The champion is.. wait no, the winner of this match is Ride!」(Announcer)

The audience exploded into an applause, greater than anything before.

Even though the announcer almost made a mistake, the crowd wouldn't refute it even if he said that Kousuke would be champion. There were those among the crowd that wanted to see further upsets in the tournament, but they were a tiny minority.

The final was supposed to begin after an hour and half break……. it was supposed to, but the opponent forfeited and Kousuke became the champion.

After seeing the match between Ritai and Ride, he knew he couldn't defeat either of them. But that's simply with the current setting, he vowed to train even harder so that he can face them next time around.

His choice to withdraw was not criticized by the audience since they agreed that those two were simply too strong for the rest.

With his victory over Ritai, the name Ride would eventually be spread throughout the entire Karuhode continent.

In the near future, when the Tale of Rider spread throughout Karuhode and Sebushik continents, many speculations that Ride from the tournament and the traveling troupe's play were the one and the same from the tale.

The awards ceremony began the moment Ritai regained his consciousness.

On the arena, Kousuke, Ritai, the finalist who forfeited, the other semi-finalist that lost, and the tournament organizers were lined up.

The elderly gentleman among them was handing out the prizes to each while giving them words of encouragement. From first to fourth place, the prizes handed to them was 5 flash coins, 3 flash coins, 1 flash coin and 5 gold coins respectively.

To the rest of the top 64, including Borudosu, were given a consolation prize of 1 gold coin.

Kousuke was also holding onto the championship pennant. Luckily, he doesn't have to carry it around afterwards since they'll take it back.

With the ceremony over, Kousuke thought that he could head back to the inn but was asked by the tournament organizers along with the other contestants to join the celebratory feast.

『I wonder if it's a good idea joining this. Rejecting it seems rude to the Rubidashia household… but accepting it will give me an unavoidable headache, probably?』(Kousuke)

While pondering what to do, he hurriedly excused himself to the bathroom to remove his disguise and rushed to where Alice and the rest were seated.

The announcer's voice could be heard advising those leaving the city to be careful. The details of the announcement was as follows: There lies a monster's nest, 1 day east of the city where a Rafdewum queen took root. Please refrain from traveling out of the city until the situation is under control.

A Rafdewum is a sub-species of the earthworm monster Kousuke encountered when he was at the ruins, protecting Viare's brother. The former is carnivorous, but the current monster follows the earthworm diet of dirt. While the earthworms are beneficial to the soil, the Rafdewum's will completely devour the nutrients of the land and are labeled as pests to be removed.

This queen, compared to the rest of its brood, is 7 meters long with 4 heads and 2 tails. It's infamous for its unbelievable tenacity. In the past, a 6-headed, 5-

tailed queen decimated an entire city once.

As the announcement ended, Kousuke bumped into Alice and Viare on the way to their seats. The two were planning on heading back to the inn and wait for Kousuke's return.

「Ah, Kousuke-san! You were amazing!」(Viare)

「Is something wrong? You seem a bit rushed」(Alice)

To avoid unwanted eavesdroppers, Kousuke led the two off to the side.

He immediately went straight to the point and asked for their opinion about the feast.

Alice pondered for a moment before speaking.

「Join them, but come back quickly. You should be able to save the Rubidashia household some face by doing that. It would be best if you do not speak at all during the party, but if you must, mask it with the "Strange Voice" spell」(Alice)

「Got it. Alright then, I'll head back to the waiting room」(Kousuke)

「Please wait a moment. Are you injured at all? I just want to make sure」(Viare)

Though she was taught beforehand from Alice that everything was an act, nevertheless, Viare couldn't help but worry.

To alleviate her worries he smiled and told her he only got some scratches. When he separated from the two, he disguised himself once more in an abandoned hallway before returning to the waiting room.

「Ah, Ride-san」(???)

When he reached his waiting room, a tournament staff that quickly shifted from a worried look to an alleviated one was there.

「The rest are gathering to leave soon, please follow me」(???)

Kousuke nodded and followed after the staff.

Reaching outside, there waited several carriages for the contestants and tournament organizers to ride.

After the staff led Kousuke to a particular carriage, she asked him to wait for a moment before she stepped away. The carriages won't depart until everyone was gathered, it seemed.

It didn't take long for the rest to be gathered, but in that short amount of time, there were many that gathered to see Kousuke. By the time they departed, the crowd made it difficult for the carriages to leave.【**TL: Oh my, my Kou-chan is so popular ;D**】

None in the crowd approached him, possibly due to being nervous, but they would point at him and whisper something to each other. Despite understanding their reactions, it still irritated Kousuke a bit.

The carriage travelled gently. After a short while, they arrived at their destination of the district representative's mansion.【**TL: Something like a mayor or a neighborhood leader**】

The party's location was in the large front yard of the mansion. There were many tables laid out filled with various foods and drinks. The preparation was done in advance during the morning, in case the tournament ended earlier like it did today.

There were many guests besides those from the tournament in the yard. While some discussed the events of the tournament, there were some that were scouting and recruiting promising individuals.

Borudosu was also enjoying the party. Since he lost during the first round of the top 64 matches, there was less attention on him during the party so he was enjoying it in a carefree manner.

There were a few instances people tried to talk with Kousuke, but he quickly refused. So far, none tried to recruit him. The reason being they all assumed that he was already a part of the Rubidashia household. However, this didn't mean that there weren't many that wanted to pull him to their side.

After eating his fill, Kousuke began his search for Gen'ou and Nagare. He wanted to at least say a word with them before leaving to not seem rude.

Scanning the party without moving from his spot, Kousuke immediately found Gen'ou discussing something with another noble while Shizuku and Nagare quietly stood beside him.

「Ride-san」(Nagare)

Seeing the approaching Kousuke, Nagare called out to him while bringing along Shizuku.

The noble speaking with Gen'ou glanced at Kousuke for a brief moment before looking back towards Gen'ou.

「Thank you for your hard work today. Also, congratulations on becoming the champion, I never doubted that you would win. Still, your unconventional methods were something that surprised us all」(Nagare)

「I fought in a fun way, for both the audience and myself」(Kousuke)

In hindsight, it was clear he never considered his opponent's feelings.

「It was amazing!」(Shizuku)

Shizuku laughed happily as she was thoroughly entertained with Kousuke's matches.

Seeing her bright expression, Kousuke smiled in satisfaction. However, his illusory mask hid it.

Still though, the kind of entertainment fighting he displayed would be considered sub-par or unbearable for someone who took combat seriously.

「I won't be staying until the end of this party. Sorry if it's sudden, but I plan on leaving in a short while」(Kousuke)

「That's unfortunate… Never mind, this is for the best」(Nagare)

Considering the other party's disposition, Nagare had no choice but to agree.

「I guess this is farewell then. I'm not sure when we'll be able to see each other again」(Kousuke)

「We won't see each other again?」(Shizuku)

「It's not impossible to see each other again, but it'll be difficult」(Kousuke)

「Then let's wait patiently for our reunion in two years when another tournament is held, ojou-sama」(Nagare)

At Nagare's words, Kousuke tilted his head apprehensively.

【TL: The raw said Shizuku said the last line.. Probably a typo since it makes NO sense if she said "ojou-sama" to Nagare…】

「The next tournament? I don't think I'll be participating」(Kousuke)

「Eh? You're not?」(Nagare)

Nagare stared with a blank expression. She expected him to join once more with a disguise.

「My original purpose for coming here wasn't to fight in the tournament to begin with. I wanted to just watch, but after enjoying it thoroughly enough this time around I doubt I'll do it again」(Kousuke)

「Is.. Is that so… Then meeting again would be difficult…」(Nagare)

「Well, I plan on visiting Kohma at least once so we'll probably see each other then」(Kousuke)

「You'll really visit Kohma?」(Shizuku)

Towards Shizuku's inquiry, Kousuke nodded.

Hearing this, Shizuku pulled out a piece of cloth. It was a beautiful, soft purple cloth with a white flower petal embroidered on one corner.

「Then please accept this. It's a handkerchief with the Rubidashia household's emblem. Present this along with my name to the gatekeepers of our house when you visit, they'll lead you in without any issues」(Shizuku)

Upon closer inspection, the center of the handkerchief revealed a light purple emblem.

「I'm not sure when I'll be visiting so are you sure?」(Kousuke)

「Yes, please accept this」(Shizuku)

【TL: Kou-chan, watch out, it's a marriage proposal hidden under this!!!】

「Then I'll accept it as a loan for now」(Kousuke)

【TL: NOOO YOU FELL FOR IT!!!】

With his goal accomplished, Kousuke greeted Gen'ou before heading back to the tables to get one last bite to eat then return to the inn.

While eating the freshly prepared food, one of the tournament organizers was talking to him about the matches, but it didn't really register into Kousuke's memory.

Seeing an opportunity, other nobles and contestants tried to talk to him, but he hurriedly refused them.

After eating his fill once again, Kousuke left the party quietly.

However, there were a few that followed him in secret. With so many people around him before, it was difficult to tell, but once he separated from the crowd the presence of these individuals became alarmingly apparent.

Kousuke quickly hid himself into a dark alley way. He picked up a pebble and chucked it toward another alley to lure them away.

One of the men following him heard the pebble and quickly entered the wrong alley.

Seeing this, another man followed after into the wrong alley. There were a few more presences around Kousuke that did not follow the two previous men.

Kousuke considered trailing after those men to confirm their purpose, but decided against it in the end and prepared to teleport away. Removing his disguise and walking back would probably still arouse some suspicions so he decided to teleport back to the inn.

Being unable to even find a shadow of Kousuke, the men determined they completely lost sight of him and left.

In truth, those men were spies that nobles hired to gain as much information about Ride as possible.

With absolutely no leads, the nobles were only left with the knowledge that a mysterious and strong individual exists. This was reported to the kings and leaders of the country they hailed from.

The following morning, Kousuke, Alice and Viare bade their farewell to

Borudosu, who was going to participate in the Rafdewum extermination with his group. The three got onto a southbound carriage and left the city out the eastern gates.

【TL: Don’t question the direction, literally what the raw stated】

While taking a scenic route, the trio’s destination was for a port city that can ferry them to the Sebushik continent.

ToC

27

Hiyo~

I forgot to allow comments, it's fixed now! SORRY!

Chapter 27: The events during their travel *RattleClattleRattleClattle* the carriage rocked noisily. It's already been 12 days since the three departed from Rezotikumog.

They've already transferred to different carriages three time. The twelve days weren't only uneventful carriage rides as the three stopped at various towns and cities along the way.

Riding together with the three was a bespectacled man in his 20s and a merchant lugging along his merchandises. The former is named Stad and the latter is named Chinton.

After riding together for three days, those two became friendly enough to converse with the trio. What more could they do? Long carriage rides are strenuous and boring so their only reprieve was in the form of human interaction.

「So Stad is currently studying to become a government official」(Kousuke)

「Yup. I'm currently returning since I picked up the corresponding materials for the third exam. Once I pass the third and fourth exam, I can become a government official」(Stad)

A slightly exaggerated scene of Stad carrying his goods lovingly could be seen.

「The third exam, I see. The only place that would be holding such a thing is the Zerupia Kingdom, correct?」(Alice) 「That is precisely so」(Stad)

At Alice's inquiry, Stad gave an enthusiastic nod.

「Wow, that's amazing Stad-san. It's a little surprising since you look more adventurous than studious」(Chinton)

"You can't judge a book by its cover", it was exactly so as Chinton admired Stad's goals.

Stad gave a wry smile, as if used to hearing such statements.

「So exactly what must you do for Zerupia's government exam?」(Chinton)

「It's held once every 3 years and it can take up to a year to finish. The exam involves a test on knowledge, etiquette, dynamism or the ability to take action, and inventiveness. A certain level in each is expected of those working in the government, at least that is what those in Zerupia believe.

The topics themselves do not change, but the contents of the examination never repeats from one year to the next. It can be a fight between the examinees, or they demand the examinees to multiply the given money by X, or they may just give some oral or written exams.

Their irregular testing method is a way to gauge the worth of the potential candidates.

Anyone who can successfully clear through everything within the first four months can become a government official. By anyone, it pertains to the entire populace, even those that are not of the nobility.

A rarity, correct?」(Alice)

「Really? Where I'm from, it was common knowledge that anyone can become a part of the government, even commoners. It just required some effort」(Kousuke)

For Kousuke, who grew up in a country where the social standings of an individual did not matter, seeing people becoming limited or endowed due to their birthrights left a sense of incongruity in him.

「It seems it's quite different from where you're from」(Alice)

「Where I'm from, only the nobles held government positions」(Viare)

At Viare's comment, Chinton nodded in agreement.

「There have been some rumors that none have passed the exam in these recent years, is that true? I also heard that even though this person didn't finish within the 4 months, he was still accepted」(Stad)

Stad asked Alice, in hopes of relieving the doubts he had about the exam and his future.

「From what I can remember, there was a man who successfully completed all of the exams perfectly approximately 20 years ago. Other than him, I haven't heard of anyone else passing in a similar fashion.

By the way, the man in question is the current prime minister of Zerupia and he's apparently the third son of a merchant household. Since he couldn't inherit the household, he took the exam on a whim and managed to perfectly pass」(Alice)

It was a surprise even for the prime minister then since he simply wanted to gauge his current bearings. In the end, he left such a record in history and immediately became a part of the elites. Even now, he would lecture his colleagues and subordinates that the future is unpredictable and everyone should give it their all.

「If someone is able to produce a similar results they'll likely be accepted, even if it exceeds the 4 months' time limit. Well, his case was a bit special to begin with」(Alice)「Are you from Zerupia?」(Stad)

「No, I'm not」(Alice)

Stad asked as he was dumbfounded that Alice knew more about his country than he did.

「You're quite well informed I see」(Stad)

「Just some knowledge among a few of my friends」(Alice)

And also the fact that she's lived a very long life.

「What was the exam like this time around? Since it's the third part of the test, I'm guessing it's the dynamism one?」(Viare) 「There's a town around twelve days away from Zerupia, I was tasked to go there to acquire and return with their special product. Well, to be specific, it just had to be a special product from any town at least ten days away.

I could have hired some adventurers to gather the necessary materials, but I lack the funds so I personally left to get it」(Stad) 「I feel that you would fail if you had someone else get it」(Viare)

Alice shook her head at Viare's doubtful comment.

「You don't necessarily have to do it yourself. Whether the examinees do it themselves or have others do it for them, it's still using their own resources, be it through connections, money or their own strength.

In the end, if they use Viare's view as the basis, it would require the examiners to observe and confirm every examinees' movements.

It'll be a waste to mobilize so much manpower, especially since there are many still taking the exam and the difficulty of the content is not high」(Alice) 「But the current prime minister's actions must have been observed, how else could he have gotten a government position if they didn't know?」(Viare) **【TL: For Viare, she's unusually astute eh?】**

「Even without someone observing him, if his actions were showy enough then it would suffice. For example, investing a large amount of money to buy various special products from all the surrounding towns. This would be enough to start a rumor, correct? With the rumor becoming conviction, the examiners can determine that this person has enormous financial power and also has the courage to utilize it in full when necessary」(Alice) 「Then wouldn't others try to imitate this?」(Kousuke)

Towards Kousuke's inquiry, just like with Viare's, Alice shook her head.

「I've heard that the examinees will fail if their methods are deemed an imitation of someone who passed.

If it was done without prior knowledge or if the examinee truly struggled to materialize the results, then it'll be considered a pass though」(Alice)

As everyone else was feeling enlightened by Alice's explanation, the carriage suddenly stopped. In comparison to the schedule given by the coachmen, this stop was not planned. Becoming curious, Chinton called out to the coachman.

「Well, there are some people blocking the road ahead」(Coachman)

「Can you ask them to move aside for a bit?」(Chinton)

「Yes, I'll ask them. Heeey, we want to go through, would you mind moving to the side for a moment?」(Coachman)

The coachman called out towards the four approaching men.

Showing little reaction to his yell, the four men continued their approach towards the carriage.

「Mm? What's wrong with those fellas?」(Coachman)

「Is something the matter?」(Viare)

Viare asked the coachman after hearing his mumbling.

「Those fellas are holding some vegetables」(Coachman)

「Vegetables? Is it something they harvested?」(Viare)

「If it's from a harvest then they would have a lot more of it and some sort of basket or carriage holding them. Those fellas only have one piece of vegetable each」(Coachman)「What's up with that?」(Viare)

「Even if you ask me….」(Coachman)

Not understanding how they reached their current condition, the coachman had no choice but to keep the carriage stopped. He would have dashed through them if they looked like bandits, but seeing that none of them had any weapons the coachman was baffled about their identity.

Once the four were close enough the coachman called out to them once more.

「We can't pass if you stay on the road like that. I'm sorry but could you move to the side?」(Coachman)「Ya'll ain't passin'!」(???)【**TL: YOU! SHALL! NOT! PAAAASSSSSS!!!**】

The four stood side by side to completely block the road. The man holding a pumpkin stepped forward slightly and spoke. The other three was holding a carrot, a radish and a burdock respectively.【**TL: The radish is the Japanese kind, Daikon**】

「What do you mean we can't pass? We need to pass.

I don't want to force our way through and hurt you fellas」(Coachman)

『I'm pretty sure they'll dodge if you force your way through though』(Kousuke)

The coachman earnestly pleaded as he did not want to resort to violence.

「Ya'll wanna pass? Give us them shinies!」(???)

「…… Wha? Y, you fellas are bandits?!」(Coachman)

「YUP!」(Bandit#1?)

「Fellas.. If all of you are bandits then don't you think what you're holding is a bit.. odd?」(Coachman)「”””They nice and plump right?”””」(All four of them)
【TL: I sprayed my tea reading this】

All four of the 'bandits' proudly raised their vegetables.

Taking a closer look, it's color and shape, they were definitely nice and plump, at least Kousuke thought so as he peeked over the coachman.

He asked for the coachman's opinion too and got a nod back.

「I agree, they look great, but ya'll being bandits and your vegetables.. How are they related?」(Coachman)「These are camouflaged weapons! Ya jus' noticed? Us just waltzed up to ya'll but did ya'll run?」(Bandit#1)「The thought of escaping didn't really cross my mind」(Coachman)

「That's right, that's right!」(Bandit#1)

The pumpkin bandit proclaimed proudly.

「If we's been carrying swords and bows, you's plump lambs woulda ran the moment ya'll saw us」(Bandit#1)

With that kind of logic, at first glance their "camouflage" plan was on the right track.

However, amidst his moment of admiration, the coachman felt that their ambush spot was too weak as nothing besides these "bandits" were blocking

them.

Compared to the usual bandit ambush, the coachman was still in an advantageous position. Still though, what these “bandits” might do may suddenly flip the table.【**TL: Unlikely, you have three overpowered people in the carriage.. A dragonslayer, an old witch and girl that can control magic distortions**】

「I get that they’re camouflaged, but are they really weapons? No, they’re definitely not weapons…」(Coachman)「Ya dissin’ vegetables?!」(Bandit#1)

The pumpkin holding bandit was seriously angry… To the point of self-mockery.

「Ya see my pumpkin!? Smashin’ this fella on yo heads gonna hurt!」(Bandit#1)

「Obviously…」(Coachman)

「Ya see? A WEAPON!」(Bandit#1)

「Is it wrong to think that you fellas should be using a sword instead?」(Coachman)

The coachman’s opinion was the same as the rest in the carriage.

「Fuu~ Swords are a joke when you’s as great as us!

Guess us’n gotta teach ya’ll a lesson first!」(Bandit#1)

With his proclamation, the pumpkin “bandit” walked up to a tree that was a little thicker than a light pole.

The pumpkin “bandit” swung his pumpkin at the tree.

Everyone in the carriage felt that the pumpkin would shatter on impact, but they were wrong. The pumpkin didn’t have a single scratch. The tree on the other hand was carved out on the impact point.

「Whaa?!」(Coachman)

The coachman couldn't help but shout out in shock. Everyone in the carriage were equally shocked.

Next, the carrot "bandit" held his carrot like a dart between his thumb and index finger and threw it at the tree. The carrot spiraled through the air like a bullet and pierced deeply into the trunk.

Furthermore, the radish "bandit" dashed toward the tree and stabbed the radish into the tree. The radish left a clean hole in the tree. That thrust clearly showed a high level of spearmanship.

And finally, the burdock "bandit". Holding the burdock with one hand, he swung it down hitting nothing but air, but the path in front of him was cleaved open.

None of the vegetables were harmed in any way.

「Wh, wha WHAT ARE YOU!?」(Coachman)

The coachman cried out in fear and surprise.

「The vegetable squad, TEAM NOUGYOU!

Mother Nature is our blade, we's the baddest of the bads, the ultimate bandits!

Are you afraid? Beg for ya'll lives! Leave e'ery shinies you's got and ya'll can live!」(Bandit#1)「Urgh…」(Coachman)

【TL: Nougyou = agriculture, but team agriculture sounded awful.. in hindsight the vegetable squad sounds awful too 】

Unlike their queer appearance, their skills were real so the coachman began to consider their demands. Much to the coachman's regret, since the road they were on was usually safe with little to no monsters and bandits, he didn't hire any guards.

When he noticed, the carriage was already surrounded by the 4 vegetable bandits. The coachman sighed heavily since he knew that if he tried to do anything suspicious, they would immediately attack.

「Everyone, please accept their demands」(Coachman)

The coachman collected himself and announced.

「I am against this! I finally got my hands on this special product after much effort! I refuse to let myself get robbed by these thugs!」(Stad) 「I just got these merchandises too…」(Chinton)

「But they're actually strong and we don't have a single guard」(Coachman)

Viare quickly glanced toward Kousuke. Noticing her, Kousuke was about to move but was stopped by Alice. She felt that she could handle this much by herself so she held him back.

And then, Alice whispered quietly towards the coachman.

「Would you like me to blast them away with magic?」(Alice)

「…… Is that alright?」(Coachman)

「Despite how I look, I'm a former adventurer. I was given designated requests in the past as well」(Alice) 「Is that true?」(Coachman)

He was skeptical of her claims since Alice looked so young and frail. The

coachman even assumed that she retired because she was too weak to continue.

「It can't be helped. Here」(Alice)

Alice pulled out her status card and allowed the coachman to view her current abilities.

Seeing the information displayed on the card, the coachman's eyes went wide.

Much less himself, even his adventurer friends could not compare to her strength.

「I.. I… Pl.. Please forgive my rudeness!」(Coachman)

Wanting to prostrate himself, the coachman's face turned blue.

「Keep quiet, you. And don't apologize over this… Alright, keep them distracted for a bit longer while I prepare my spell」(Alice)「Ro.. Roger!」(Coachman)

With his hope to survive rekindled, the coachman returned his gaze back to the pumpkin bandit to buy some time.

「H, Hey」(Coachman)

「Wut? Hurry and bring them shinies out」(Bandit#1)

「There's someone inside that's refusing. The other's inside are trying to convince him so can you give us a moment?」(Coachman)「Mm…. fine, make it quick」(Bandit#1)

Since Stad's refusal before was loud, the bandits knew someone inside was

being uncooperative so they were convinced by the coachman's story.

「We's ain't got much patience, ya hear?」(Bandit#1)

「G, got it」(Coachman)

The coachman turned back around towards the carriage interior, pretending to tell them the bandit's response.

「S, So.. You fellas have been active around these areas for a while, yes?

It's just, I heard that there weren't any bandits on these roads here」(Coachman)「Robbin' fat lambs like ya'll, we's been doin' it for a while yea. You ain't wrong, us'n got here jus' ten days ago. Other roads jus' gittin too hot ya see」(Bandit#1)「No wonder. That reminds me, you fellas are the vegetable squad so are there others too?」(Coachman)

Since he needed to buy some time, the coachman asked out of curiosity.

「Ya ya, the grain squad and the fruit squad」(Bandit#1)

「So do all of you grow your own produces?」(Coachman)

「Wha? Ya serious? Of course. We's farmers」(Bandit#1)

「Farmers? Not bandits?」(Coachman)

「A bit a farmer and a bit a bandit」(Bandit#1)

「So why delve into banditry? You can survive well with just farming」(Coachman)「Hmph! Ya'll jus' dun understand so keep yo trap shut! Ya know 'bout barren lands? Yea them farms dried up. No harvest, but them fat nobles dun care, we's still taxed the same. Friends, families, we's all suffering but we still gots to pay!

Then yea, big boss came 'round and saved us all when we's felt it was over!」(Bandit#1)「And the big boss was using a vegetable weapon too?」(Coachman)

「Big boss's fava beans are #1!」(Bandit#1)

When the beans are launched, due to their irregular shape their trajectory is equally irregular, making them difficult to dodge.

「I can somewhat understand what your big boss is thinking, but why vegetables as weapons?」(Coachman)

Their weapon choice truly baffled the coachman.

At that moment, suddenly, with the carriage as the epicenter, a shockwave exploded out. The trees shook violently and the bandits were blown away.

Unlike the coachman who knew it was Alice's magic, the bandits were in a befuddled state, not understanding what happened. The attack was too sudden for them, none of the bandits were able to protect themselves in time.

They were bleeding, but seeing them struggling to get up, it was clear none were dead.

「Let's see how it went. Oh, I guess it subdued them nicely. Well then, what shall we do with them? Leave them alone or maybe capture and hand them over to the officials?」(Alice) 「Let's bring them in for the officials to handle. It'll be for the best if they can find out the other's locations to make this road safer」(Coachman)

Alice nodded in agreement with the coachman's judgment. He then called out the rest in the carriage to help tie up the bandits before treating their wounds. It was planned to keep them asleep with magic throughout the trip, but if their wounds aren't treated then they would likely constantly groan and moan, making it unbearable.

With all the issues settled, the tied up, unconscious bandits were shoved into the corner of the carriage and the group resumed their travel.

Upon reaching their destination, the coachman explained the situation to the guards and handed the bandits over to them. Afterwards, the bandits were successfully interrogated, but the rest of the bandit organization were too scattered to be fully apprehended. The scale of their organization was clearly a lot larger than what Kousuke's group thought. The amount of individuals suffering from exploitation seemed to be a lot more numerous than expected.

According to the information the guards had, there were two other similar incidents in the area and upon further investigation the conclusion that those two incidents were incited by two other organizations was met.

One group was the Animal Husbandry team, using their farm animals and eggs as weapons. There were reports that the victims suffered being blinded by the thrown eggs while cows and bulls charged through their ranks.

The other group was the Fisherman Pirates team, using everything the bountiful sea offered. Pierced by shuriken clams, bludgeoned by bonitos, whipped by eels, such things have been reported.

During their harvest or peak seasons, despite the largeness of their organization, the amount of banditry and victims was small due to them being focused on their actual jobs. Thus the gathered information was vague and minimal due to their sporadic activity.

Furthermore, rather than amassing a fortune, many within those organizations are more keen on replacing and re-establishing their previous life before the exploitation. Thanks to that, as long as they get what they want and are able to maintain their lifestyle they will not treat the victims poorly.【**TL: Treated poorly like kidnapping the young and strong for slave use, assaulting the women for pleasure and killing the old because they're low valued goods**】

Since these bandits are the typical farmers or fishermen, it's difficult to confirm their identities at first glance.

The army was troubled by this since openly capturing all these farmers and fishermen was out of the question.

This unusual situation was actually brought forth by the 3 gods in charge of

agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing respectively.

The “theater and drama” idea that Kousuke provided actually had other ideas mixed in, such as a squadron or a specialist group. Using that as a hint the gods of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing randomly endowed an individual each with power.

Similar to Rider’s transformation, the three that were endowed with power could “transform” when combating against ‘ruffians’.

The three dubbed themselves as The Crop Slasher, The Crasher of Games, and The 100% Catcher to combat villainy and oppression. And as if destined, the three met and created the “Worker 3 Squad”.

Soon financial backers and tool creators joined as avid supporters, swelling the size of the “Worker 3 Squad”.

The 3 gods at fault did not do this to protect the innocent, but to get some entertainment from the various consequences brought about by the squad’s actions.

They were just indulging in their self-interest.

Despite this clearly interfering with the lives of mortals, the rest of the gods allowed it just for its entertainment value. Either way, it wasn’t a world changing thing.

Oblivious that he was the catalyst for this incident, Kousuke was swaying in the rocky carriage. It wasn’t until many years later that he learns of the “Worker 3 Squad’s” existence.

Without pause, the group arrived at the port city, got onto a ship heading to Sebushik and waved their farewell to the Kalhode continent.

Five days after since they boarded the ship, Kousuke was alone on the continent of Ezenbia that was below Kalhode.

He was rescued on the beach, where he was buried head first. This was the current situation of his return trip to the Sebushik continent.

ToC